Peter Panda

en tro py

4

Yeri Na

"The good times start now."

Peter Pandō

Peter Panda

en tro py

c o n t e n t s

MEET 18. 11

MEET 19. 35

MEET 20. 51

MEET 21. 81

MEET 22. 110

MEET 23. 123

MEET 24. 153

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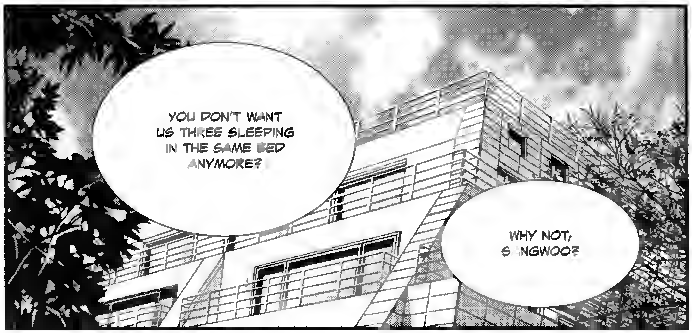
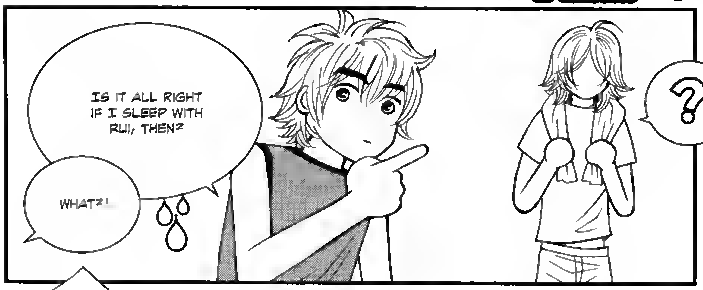
As I thought,
this can't go on.


YOU DON'T WANT US THREE SLEEPING IN THE SAME BED ANYMORE?
WHY NOT, SUNGWOO?

AESTHETICALLY AND MORALLY SPEAKING, IT'S NOT A GOOD IDEA. WHY WOULD THREE GROWN MEN WANT TO SLEEP IN THE SAME BED, ANYWAY?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "WHY NOT?" DO I HAVE TO SPELL IT OUT FOR YOU?
NO WAY! I DON'T WANT TO SLEEP BY MYSELF!
They got to sleep together!
Been sharing the same room since Kai moved in
SORRY FOR NOT HELPING WITH BREAKFAST THIS MORNING.
I accidentally slept in.
ANYWAY, STOP ACTING LIKE A CHILD AND—
Kai, you're up?

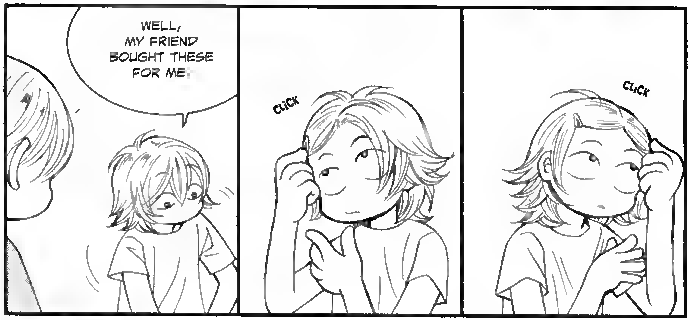

IS IT ALL RIGHT IF I SLEEP WITH RUI, THEN?
WHAT?!
?

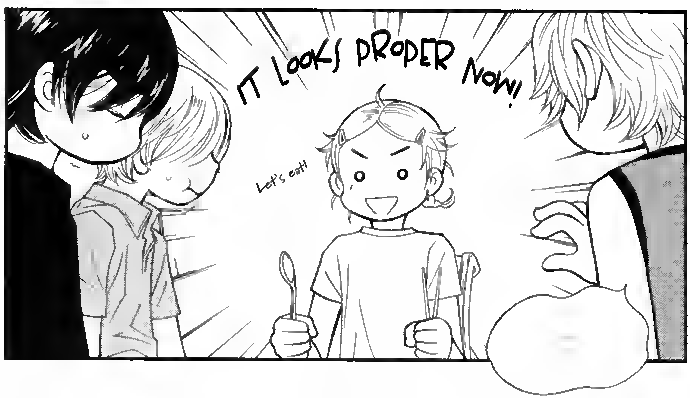
WHY ARE YOU HITTING ME?! YOU PROMISED NOT TO USE VIOLENCE ANYMORE!
Don't be ridiculous.
Did you sleep well, Rui?
Yes

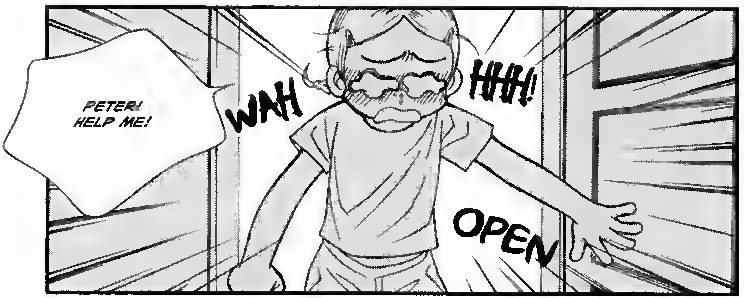
What? Rui is like a little brother to me
Bullshit
RUI, YOUR HAIR HAS GROWN OUT A LOT.
AT THE VERY LEAST, WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THESE BANGS.

YOU'RE RIGHT THEY'RE ANNOYING ME A BIT.
It looks very messy

Mm
WHAT THE MY EYES FEEL STRANGE
For a moment there I can fix as a girl
Mo too
Aw, come on
?


WELL, MY FRIEND BOUGHT THESE FOR ME.
CLICK
CLICK

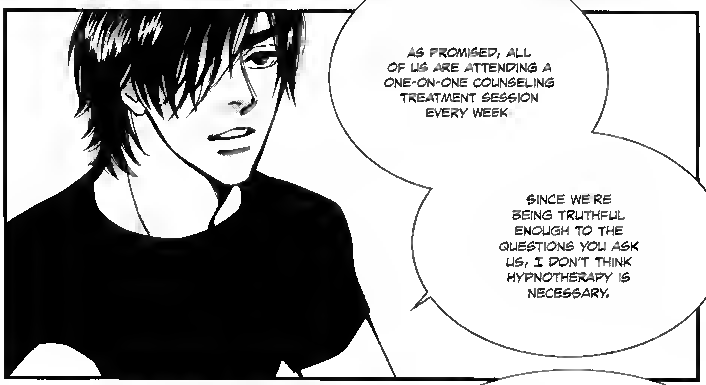

IT LOOKS PROPER NOW!
Let's eat!



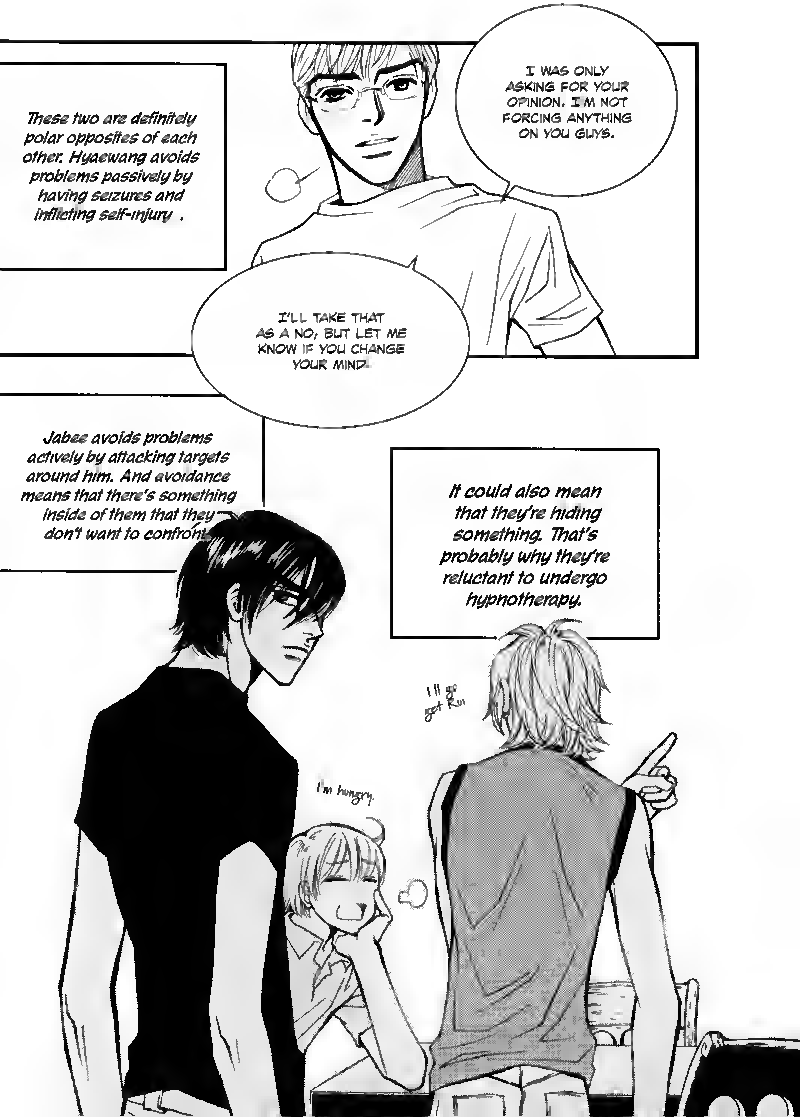
*People in Chunghak are close to what the Amish are like in the USA

Meanwhile, the others...
SHAKE
SHAKE
OH, MAN -- I HAVEN'T LAUGHED LIKE THAT IN YEARS.
Rui's the best. So, so very cute.
I'M GONNA BRING HER BACK. SHE MIGHT GET ANGRY, THOUGH.
AH, WAIT A MINUTE, GUYS.

REMEMBER WHEN I TOLD YOU GUYS ABOUT THE HYPNOTHERAPY OPTION?
I MET WITH THE PROFESSOR WHO WAS RECOMMENDED; SO IF YOU LIKE, YOU GUYS CAN GET THE TREATMENT WHENEVER YOU WANT
HYPNOTHERAPY IS MUCH MORE IN-DEPTH THAN THE DRUG BASED TREATMENTS, SO ENTERING THE UNCONSCIOUS STATE IS A LOT EASIER
HOWEVER, ONCE IT STARTS, YOU CAN'T LIE OR REFUSE TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS
SO THE PATIENT'S CONSENT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY WHAT DO YOU GUYS THINK?


AS PROMISED, ALL OF US ARE ATTENDING A ONE-ON-ONE COUNSELING TREATMENT SESSION EVERY WEEK.
SINCE WE'RE BEING TRUTHFUL ENOUGH TO THE QUESTIONS YOU ASK US, I DON'T THINK HYPNOTHERAPY IS NECESSARY.

As expected, Jabee is reacting aggressively.


These two are definitely polar opposites of each other. Hyaewang avoids problems passively by having seizures and inflicting self-injury .
I WAS ONLY ASKING FOR YOUR OPINION. I'M NOT FORCING ANYTHING ON YOU GUYS.
I'LL TAKE THAT AS A NO, BUT LET ME KNOW IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND!
Jabee avoids problems actively by attacking targets around him. And avoidance means that there's something inside of them that they don't want to confront.
It could also mean that they're hiding something. That's probably why they're reluctant to undergo hypnotherapy.
I'll go get Kun
I'm hungry.

As for Heesoo... I have no idea.
He's a soft, introspective person on the surface, but I can't tell what kind of person he actually is.
He's the type of person who's hard to read.
I think that is his strength in the relationship between these three.
The only thing I know about Heesoo is that as a kid, he was badly injured in an accident, and he went overseas to receive proper care.
Come on
Jabee will prepare breakfast
That was also when both Jabee and Hyaewang began to show their symptoms, so it is possible that the cause of all their abnormalities was from around that time.
I wonder if the problem was the fact that they were separated or was it the accident itself?

What happened to those kids back then?

WHAT THE... YOU AGAIN? ... NO, NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE, BUT MAKE IT QUICK
WELL, YOU CALLED BECAUSE YOU HAD ANOTHER FAVOR TO ASK, RIGHT?
BRUSH
BRUSH
fidget
fidget
SHE'S BEEN AT IT FOR OVER AN HOUR.
Whew I'm finished
...

I can't watch this anymore
FINISH?! FINISH WHAT?!
YOU HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO SENSE OF STYLE! I'M ASHAMED TO HAVE SOMEONE LIKE YOU AS A MASTER! ASHAMED!
!!!
CUT
SNIP
CUT
SNIP
CUT
WOW...
PETER, YOU KNOW HOW TO CUT HAIR AS WELL? YOU'RE AMAZING!

Whoa
YOU'RE WEARING A SKIRT? ARE YOU GOING ON A DATE?
WITH WHO? JABEE? HYAEWANG? HEESOO? TAKE ME WITH YOU!
I'll be good
NO, NO! I'M STUDYING WITH MR. SANGWOO IN A FEW MINUTES...
What? With that grandpa?
UGH
MR. SANGWOO IS NOT A GRANDPA!
I JUST THOUGHT IT'D BE NICE TO TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT.
—BECAUSE I WANT TO SHOW HIM MY BEST POSSIBLE SIDE.
OH, NO! I'M LATE!

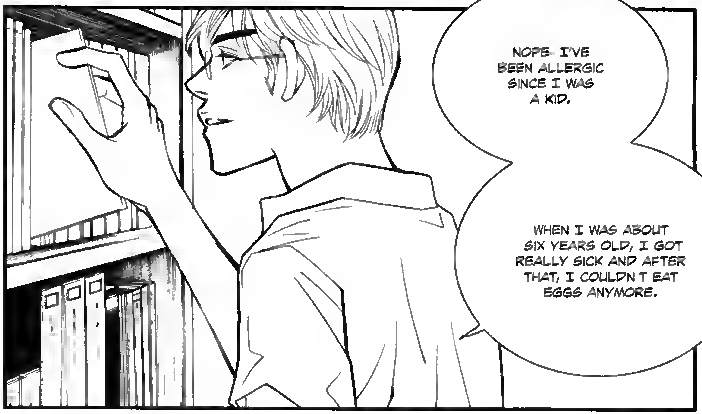
OH, AND THANK YOU FOR THE HAIR CUT, PETER.
close
HAVE YOU AT LAST BEGUN TO CHANGE ?
THEN, MAYBE IT'S TIME FOR ME TO LEAVE AS WELL.

sniff
sniff
IT'S OK, IT'S OK. NO ONE IS GOOD RIGHT FROM THE START.
BUT... WOULD THIS BE ALL RIGHT? IS THERE ANY POSSIBILITY OF IMPROVEMENT HERE?
STUDYING IS A BIT BORING, RIGHT?
I'M REALLY SORRY... I KNOW YOU'RE TRYING SO HARD TO TEACH ME...
BUT WHEN I SEE A BOOK, EVEN MY APPETITE COMPLETELY DISAPPEARS...

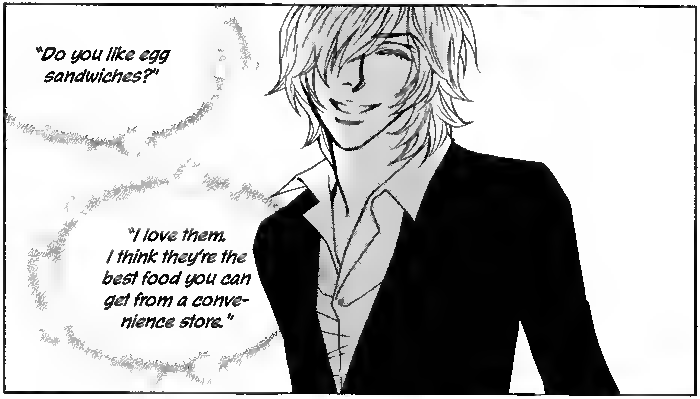
GRRROWL
WELL, THEN, SHALL WE EAT FIRST?
AH! IF THAT'S THE CASE, I'LL GO PREPARE FOOD!
YOU'LL DO THAT? THEN, I'LL JUST PICK OUT SOME TEXTBOOKS
Something a bit easier
WOULD YOU LIKE ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR?
MAYBE I SHOULD MAKE AN EGG SANDWICH.

AS LONG AS IT DOESN'T HAVE ANY EGGS IN IT, I'M FINE.
I'M ALLERGIC TO EGGS.

OH...
DID YOU RECENTLY DEVELOP THAT?


NOPE. I'VE BEEN ALLERGIC SINCE I WAS A KID.
WHEN I WAS ABOUT SIX YEARS OLD, I GOT REALLY SICK AND AFTER THAT, I COULDN'T EAT EGGS ANYMORE.

Huh...?


"Do you like egg sandwiches?"
"I love them. I think they're the best food you can get from a convenience store."

Then ... Mr. Sangwoo is not the same person as Mr. Angel?
Then, why would... Who is Mr. Sangwoo, then?

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COME ON, PETER! WHY HAVEN'T YOU TALKED TO ME FOR THE LAST COUPLE OF DAYS? ARE YOU MAD?
I HAVEN'T EVEN HIT YOU AT ALL! WHAT'S WRONG?! STOP JOKING AROUND!
RIGHT NOW, I NEED TO TALK TO SOMEONE. I CAN'T STAND IT. I'M BEGGING YOU PLEASE?
HAVE YOU .... DISAPPEARED?

IF YOU HAVE REALLY DISAPPEARED, ISN'T THAT A BIT HARSH?!
YOU ONLY APPEAR WHEN IT SUITS YOU!
YOU SAID THAT YOU'RE THE REALIZATION OF MY DREAM!! DID YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT MY DREAM WAS?!
DISAPPEARING WHEN I NEED YOU MOST ... CAN YOU STILL SAY YOU'RE MY PETER?
AH.
RUI
ARE YOU OK? IS SOMETHING WRONG?

WHAT? HEESOO AND RUI WENT OUT TO PLAY? THAT'S SO UNFAIR!
WHERE'D THEY GO? LET'S GO ALONG WITH THEM!
Let's call them
BAM
HEY!
Be grateful I didn't throw it on the floor
YOU KNOW... IF...

IF ONE OF US HAD TO GET MARRIED, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
I KNOW SO MANY GIRLS, SO I'D GET IN TROUBLE
IMPOSSIBLE. THERE'S NO WAY, MAN.
YOUR FIERCE TEMPER OBVIOUSLY CHASES THE GIRLS AWAY.. HEE HEE
AND HEESOO
UH
WHAT IS THIS? NO WAY..

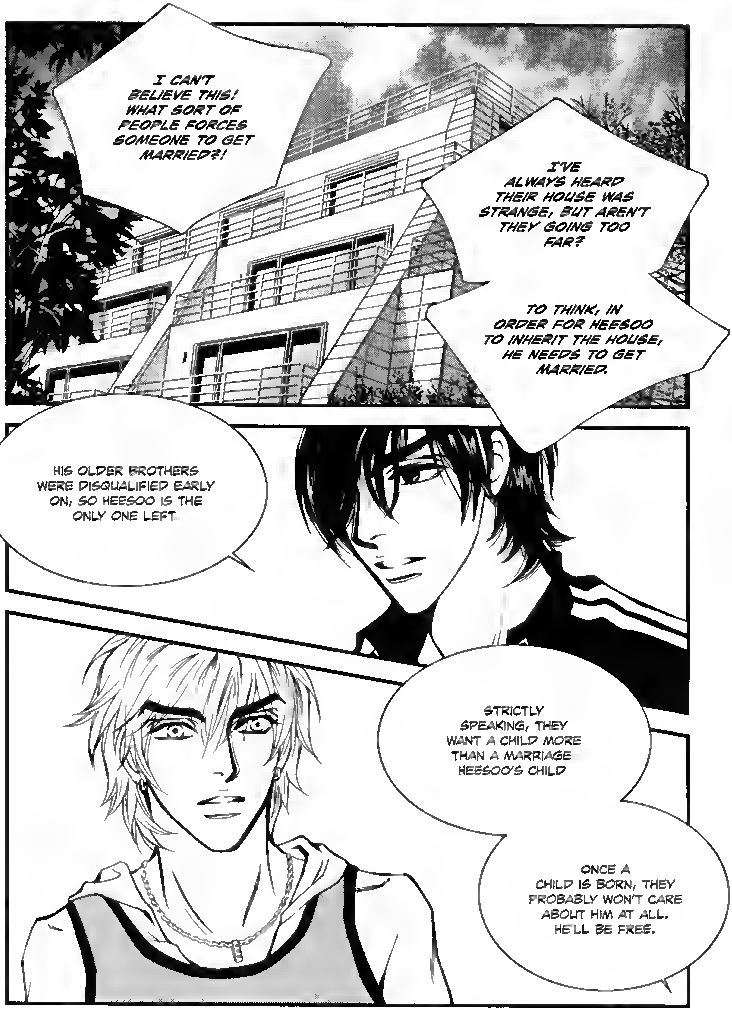
HOW ARE THE KIDS DOING? HOW'S JABEE...?
HE'S CURRENTLY ATTENDING SCHOOL WITHOUT ANY PROBLEMS.
IT'S RIDICULOUS, IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT...
TO BE SO SCARED OF YOUR OWN CHILD THAT YOU CAN'T EVEN MEET HIM.
I HAVE TO ASK YOU SOMETHING TODAY.

DO YOU REMEMBER THEIR CHILDHOOD FRIEND, HEESOO KANG?
UH... HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT NAME...
I THOUGHT I CLEARLY TOLD YOU NOT TO ASK THE CHILDREN ABOUT THE PAST.
OR... DID JABEE TELL YOU?
YES...
I STILL HAVEN'T HEARD EVERYTHING, BUT I WANTED TO KNOW MORE
...

THAT CHILD HAD AN ANGELIC FACE AND WAS WELL-BEHAVED, SO EVERYONE LOVED HIM.
HOWEVER, I KNEW A SIDE OF HIM THAT NO ONE ELSE DID.
TRUTHFULLY, THAT CHILD IS THE DEVIL.

DOESN'T THE COOL BREEZE MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER?
...YEAH.
ABOUT SANGWOO NOT BEING THE PERSON YOU THOUGHT HE WAS...
HAVE YOU TALKED TO HIM DIRECTLY ABOUT IT?
...NO.

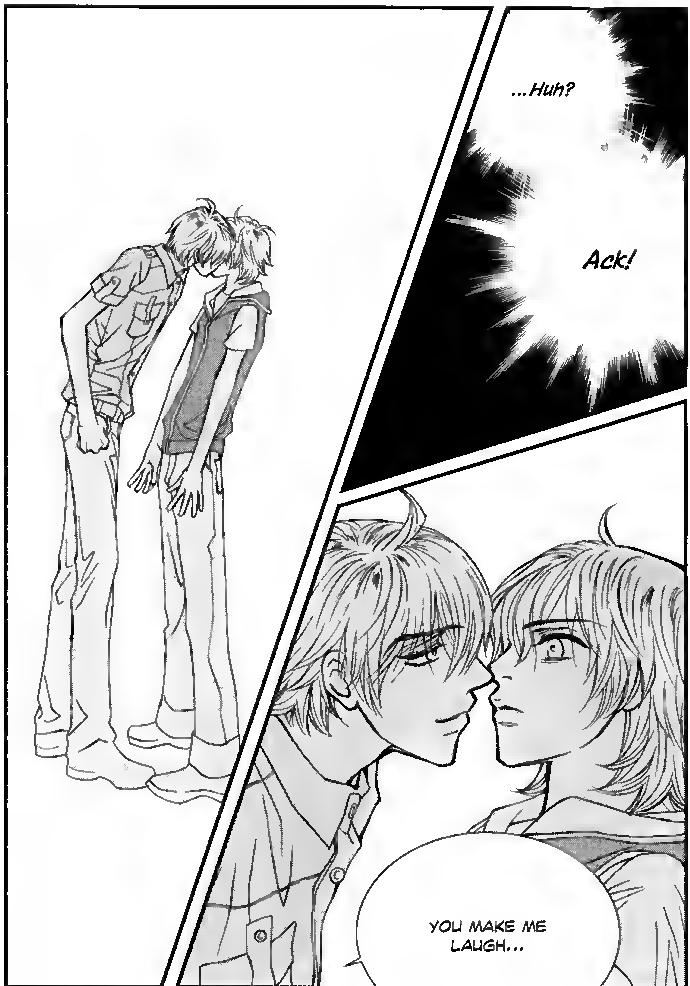
ACTUALLY, I WAS SCARED— THERE'S NO WAY I COULD POSSIBLY ASK HIM
IF I TALK TO MR. SANGWOO— I'M AFRAID THAT IT'LL BE LIKE WAKING UP FROM A DREAM — AND I'LL FIND MYSELF ALONE AGAIN.
HABITS ARE SCARY...
A LONG TIME AGO, I DIDN'T MIND BEING ALONE. I DIDN'T CARE AND WAS PERFECTLY FINE—
NOW, BEING LONELY IS SCARY HAVING NO FAMILY IS— FOR THE FIRST TIME, I FELT SAD


I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS! WHAT SORT OF PEOPLE FORCES SOMEONE TO GET MARRIED?!
I'VE ALWAYS HEARD THEIR HOUSE WAS STRANGE, BUT AREN'T THEY GOING TOO FAR?
TO THINK, IN ORDER FOR HEESOO TO INHERIT THE HOUSE, HE NEEDS TO GET MARRIED.
HIS OLDER BROTHERS WERE DISQUALIFIED EARLY ON, SO HEESOO IS THE ONLY ONE LEFT
STRICTLY SPEAKING, THEY WANT A CHILD MORE THAN A MARRIAGE HEESOO'S CHILD
ONCE A CHILD IS BORN, THEY PROBABLY WON'T CARE ABOUT HIM AT ALL. HE'LL BE FREE.

WHAT THE ... SO HE HAS TO GET MARRIED SOON JUST TO HAVE A CHILD?
DO YOU EVEN THINK THAT'S POSSIBLE? MORE IMPORTANTLY, HEESOO HASN'T MET ANY GIRLS SINCE HE'S BEEN BACK IN KOREA.
...YOU DON'T MEAN—
ARE YOU THINKING OF RUI?
WHY NOT?

SMACK
ANYWAY, MANY FAMILIES WHO ARE CONNECTED BY BLOOD ARE STILL TERRIBLE.
IT BECOMES MORE DIFFICULT TO ESCAPE WHEN YOU HAVE THE FENCE OF "FAMILY" AROUND YOU
THERE IS NO ONE TO HELP YOU NO PLACE TO RUN AWAY TO.

THAT KIND OF THING ISN'T FAMILY.
IT'S HELL.
TO ESCAPE FROM THAT, I'LL MAKE MY OWN FAMILY.
A FAMILY THAT I REALLY LOVE ... ONE THAT MAKES ME LAUGH...
A FAMILY I WOULD GIVE MY LIFE TO...


...Huh?
Ack!
YOU MAKE ME LAUGH...

CAN YOU HELP ME LEAVE HELL?
BECOME MY NEW FAMILY.

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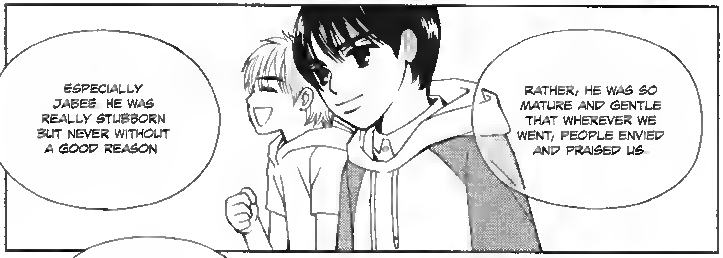
USE RUI?
I CAN'T FORGIVE THAT SORT OF THING EVEN IF IT'S FOR YOU TWO.
DO YOU WANT TO BE SEPARATED FROM HEESOO AGAIN?
THEN,
IF HEESOO GETS DRAGGED AWAY TO LIVE IN THAT HOUSE FOREVER!!

...AND YOU'D NEVER BE ABLE TO SEE HIM AGAIN, WOULD YOU BE OK WITH THAT?
NO, NO WAY.
I DON'T WANT TO NOT SEE HEESOO AGAIN. I'D NEVER WANT THAT.
BUT... BUT RUI IS...
NOTHING IS CERTAIN YET. DON'T GET AHEAD OF YOURSELF.
DID ANYONE SAY THAT RUI'LL BE FORCED INTO IT?

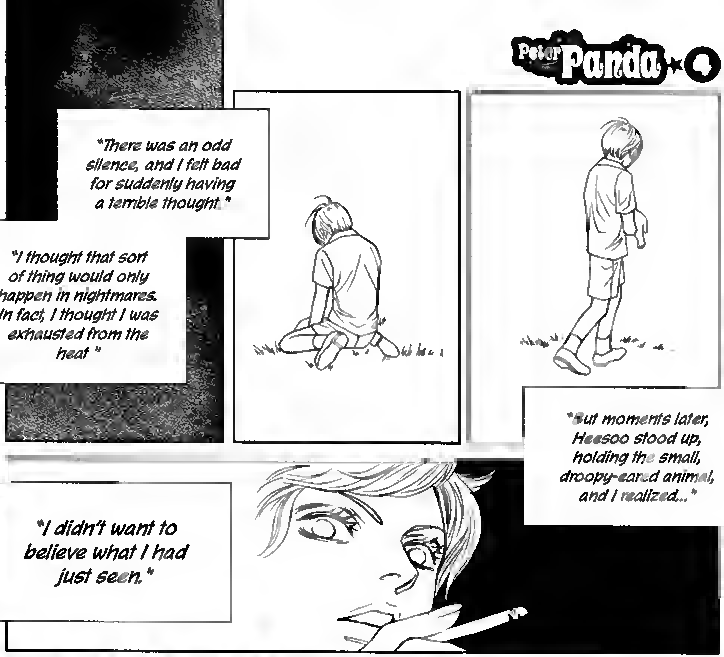
IF RUI CHOOSES HEESOO ON HER OWN, SHE'S NOT BEING "USED," RIGHT?
A DEVIL ... YOU SAY.
IS THERE A PARTICULAR REASON WHY YOU THINK OF HEESOO IN THAT WAY?
YOU MAY NOT BELIEVE IT, CONSIDERING HOW HYAEWANG AND JABEE ARE NOW,
BUT WHEN THOSE TWO WERE YOUNGER, THEY WERE REALLY INNOCENT AND KIND KIDS WHO NEVER GOT INTO ANY TROUBLE.

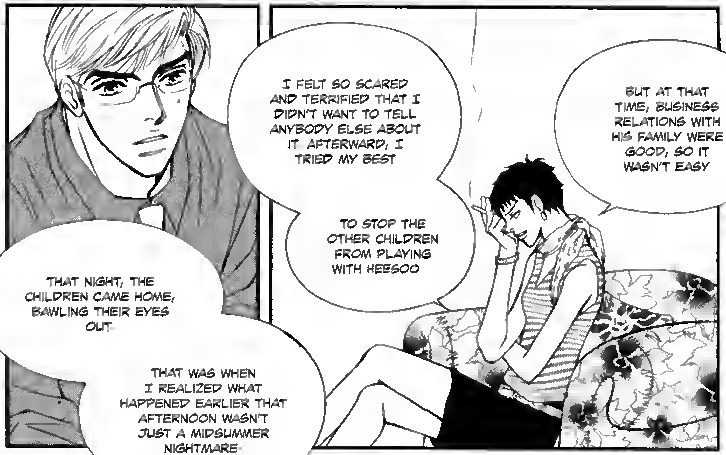

ESPECIALLY JABEE. HE WAS REALLY STUBBORN BUT NEVER WITHOUT A GOOD REASON
RATHER, HE WAS SO MATURE AND GENTLE THAT WHEREVER WE WENT, PEOPLE ENVIED AND PRAISED US.

BUT FOR SOME REASON, HEESOO HAD A TIGHT HOLD ON HIM; SO JABEE DID WHATEVER HEESOO WANTED TO DO
THEY CAUSED FIRES, DRANK STOLEN WINE, AND SMOKED STOLEN CIGARETTES
IF THERE WAS AN ACCIDENT, THEY WOULD DENY ANY WRONGDOING, BUT HEESOO WOULD DEFINITELY HAVE BEEN A PART OF IT.

I'M SORRY TO SAY, BUT THAT KIND OF BEHAVIOR IS NOT UNCOMMON IN KIDS.
EVEN I WAS, AT THAT AGE.
THAT'S NOT THE END OF IT.

"Back then, we had a guest room that overlooked Heesoo's garden."
"One day, after I'd just finished preparing the room for guests, I went out onto the veranda..."
BARK
BARK
"...and saw Heesoo playing with his new puppy."
"Moments later, while holding the puppy close, he kneeled down onto the ground."
BARK
BARK
BARK
WHINE
Whimper
BARK
Whimper


"There was an odd silence, and I felt bad for suddenly having a terrible thought."
"I thought that sort of thing would only happen in nightmares. In fact, I thought I was exhausted from the heat."
"But moments later, Heesoo stood up, holding the small, droopy-eared animal, and I realized..."
"I didn't want to believe what I had just seen."


I FELT SO SCARED AND TERRIFIED THAT I DIDN'T WANT TO TELL ANYBODY ELSE ABOUT IT. AFTERWARD, I TRIED MY BEST
BUT AT THAT TIME, BUSINESS RELATIONS WITH HIS FAMILY WERE GOOD, SO IT WASN'T EASY
TO STOP THE OTHER CHILDREN FROM PLAYING WITH HEESOO
THAT NIGHT, THE CHILDREN CAME HOME, BAWLING THEIR EYES OUT.
THAT WAS WHEN I REALIZED WHAT HAPPENED EARLIER THAT AFTERNOON WASN'T JUST A MIDSUMMER NIGHTMARE.

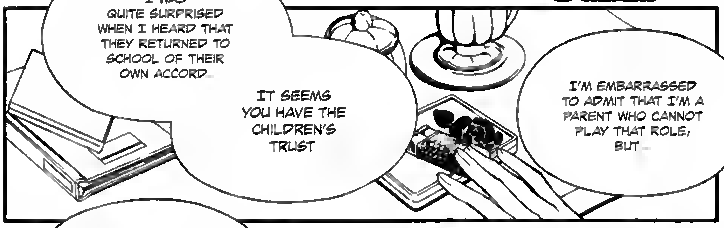
IF I THINK ABOUT IT, THE TROUBLE BEGAN WHEN HEESOO'S FAMILY MOVED TO OUR AREA.
HEESOO'S FAMILY HAD INVESTED A LOT OF MONEY INTO THE BUSINESS THAT WE STARTED TOGETHER WITH HYAEWANG'S FAMILY.
WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN CLOSE TO HYAEWANG'S FAMILY,
BUT BEFORE WE KNEW IT, HEESOO BECAME AS CLOSE AS SIBLINGS WITH BOTH OF OUR CHILDREN.
ONLY A WHILE LATER DID I LEARN ABOUT THE SORT OF CULT THAT FAMILY WAS IN.
I HAD MY DOUBTS DUE TO THEIR INVESTMENTS IN US, AND BESIDES, IT WASN'T SOMETHING I COULD RESOLVE OVERNIGHT.
BY "ACCIDENT," YOU MEAN THE ONE INVOLVING HEESOO, RIGHT? COULD YOU PLEASE EXPLAIN IN MORE DETAIL?
BUT THEN CAME THE ACCIDENT AND WHEN THEY LEFT THE AREA,
OUR BUSINESS RELATIONS ENDED
THE RAIN WAS POURING HEAVILY THAT DAY
I CAUGHT JABEE SNEAKING OUT WITH HIS LUGGAGE.

IT SEEMED THE THREE OF THEM HAD PLANNED TO GO SOMEWHERE TOGETHER,
SO I CALLED HYAEWANG'S HOUSE AND STOPPED HIM FROM LEAVING AS WELL

BUT HEESOO HAD GONE OUT ALONE AND GOT CAUGHT UP IN AN ACCIDENT
THE MORE TERRIFYING PART IS

THE CHILDREN SECRETLY ESCAPED AT DAWN AND SAW THE SCENE THEMSELVES
WE WERE RELIEVED THAT AT LEAST TWO OF THEM HAD AVOIDED THE ACCIDENT;
BUT AFTERWARD, JABEE LOOKED AT ME AS IF I WERE THE CRIMINAL. NOTHING HAS CHANGED SINCE THEN

WHO WOULD LET THEIR CHILDREN LEAVE ON A NIGHT LIKE THAT?
WE THOUGHT THEY WOULD HAVE STOPPED HEESOO FROM LEAVING.
IF YOU CONSIDER THE AFTERMATH FROM IT, WE'RE THE BIGGEST VICTIMS HERE.
BUT TO HEAR JABEE TALK ABOUT HEESOO BY HIMSELF IS SURPRISING.
WE'VE PREVIOUSLY TRIED TO TAKE HIM TO SEVERAL PSYCHOLOGISTS, BUT WHENEVER THE ACCIDENT WAS BROUGHT UP, HIS CONDITION WORSENED, SO IN THE END, WE GAVE UP
THAT'S WHY WE ASKED YOU NOT TO MENTION HIS CHILDHOOD UNLESS HE SAID SOMETHING
RECENTLY, I HAVE BEEN HAVING ONE-ON ONE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE KIDS ONCE A WEEK.
WE MOSTLY HAVE NORMAL CONVERSATIONS, BUT THEY ARE SLOWLY OPENING THEMSELVES UP TO ME.


I WAS QUITE SURPRISED WHEN I HEARD THAT THEY RETURNED TO SCHOOL OF THEIR OWN ACCORD...
IT SEEMS YOU HAVE THE CHILDREN'S TRUST
I'M EMBARRASSED TO ADMIT THAT I'M A PARENT WHO CANNOT PLAY THAT ROLE; BUT...

PLEASE HELP ME...

PLEASE LET THE KIDS OUT INTO THE WORLD...

...SO THEY COULD RETURN TO US...
"Mom! Mom, quickly come down!"

TODAY, COULD WE TALK ABOUT THAT DAY?
THAT DAY WHEN
HEESOO HAD THAT ACCIDENT.
IF YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE IT, WE CAN SLOWLY TALK ABOUT IT LATER.
—THERE'S NOTHING SPECIAL ABOUT IT.
WE JUST PLANNED TO LEAVE WITHOUT LETTING OUR PARENTS KNOW ABOUT IT.

TO GO WHERE?
ANYWHERE
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, IT WAS LIKE A JOURNEY THAT KIDS DREAM ABOUT.
ANYHOW, HYAEWANG AND I GOT DELAYED BECAUSE WE WERE CAUGHT,
BUT HEESOO WENT OUT ALONE AND GOT HIMSELF INVOLVED IN AN ACCIDENT AND WAS BADLY HURT.
THERE WAS A LOT OF RAIN, RIGHT?
SO THAT'S WHY HYAEWANG HAS A FIT WHENEVER THERE ARE THUNDERSTORMS.
YOU THINK WE ARE LIKE THIS BECAUSE OF GUILT, DON'T YOU?

IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT. WE DON'T HAVE A GUILTY CONSCIENCE, NOR ARE WE RESENTFUL.
"THE ACCIDENT WASN'T YOUR FAULT OR YOUR PARENTS' FAULT. IT ISN'T ANYONE'S FAULT— JUST AN ACCIDENT THAT UNFORTUNATELY HAPPENED."
...AM I RIGHT?
YES THOUGH YOU'VE PROBABLY HEARD IT ALL BY NOW,
AND YOU'RE SMART ENOUGH TO UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH OF THOSE WORDS,
UNDERSTANDING IT AND ACCEPTING IT ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS.
MOST PEOPLE, INCLUDING MYSELF, KNOW THAT THEORETICALLY IT MAY NOT BE TRUE,
BUT THEY STILL DEEPLY BELIEVE THAT THEY THEMSELVES ARE THE CAUSE OF THE MISFORTUNE

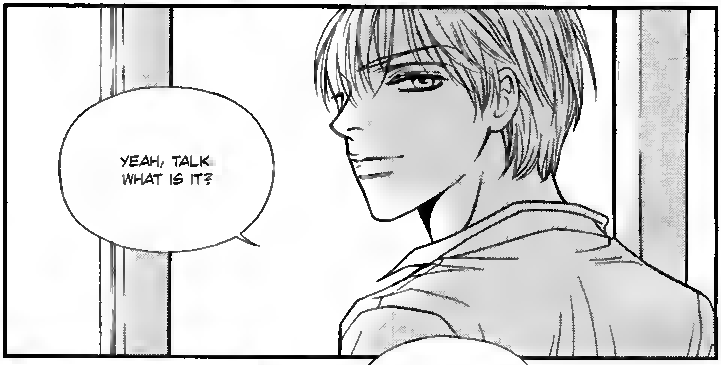
AND THEY BECOME CONFUSED OF THEIR OWN EXISTENCE.
THEY TORMENT THEMSELVES OR GIVE OTHERS PAIN... THEREBY PUNISHING THEMSELVES IN A DESTRUCTIVE WAY.
HURTING THEMSELVES LIKE THAT MAY SOUND DEPRESSING AND FOOLISH, BUT IT IS A NECESSARY PROCESS.
AND WHEN THE BURDEN IS LIFTED, THEY CAN CONTINUE TO THE NEXT PHASE.
IT MAY BE HARD TO ACKNOWLEDGE IT, BUT THERE WAS NOTHING YOU COULD DO BACK THEN.
IT'S THE SAME WITH ANYONE. SO YOU MUST LESSEN THAT BURDEN ON YOURSELF AND MOVE ON.
FROM WHAT I CAN SEE, YOU AND HYAEWANG HAVE PUNISHED YOURSELVES ENOUGH.

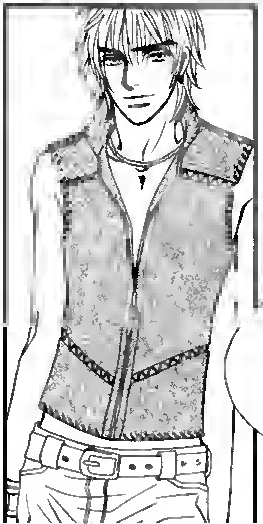
CLASH
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, JASEE HAN?
WHAT IS "ENOUGH?" YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW ANYTHING!!
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I PUNISH MYSELF, THE BURDEN'S STILL THERE.
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO MOVE ON?!

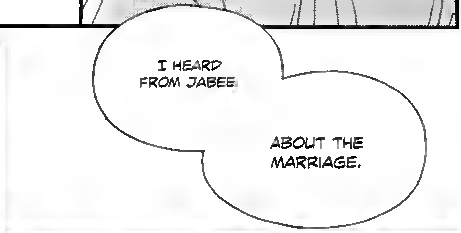
SHATTER
STOP IT!! JABEE!!
LET GO!
PLEASE DON'T BE LIKE THIS, JABEE HAN!!
LET GO OF ME!

"Hey, Heesoo. Are you sick again?"
"Why are you leaving without saying anything?"
"I said wait!"
AH, SORRY
"Hey, Heesoo ... that..."

HEESOO...


YEAH, TALK.
WHAT IS IT?




I HEARD FROM JABEE.
ABOUT THE MARRIAGE.

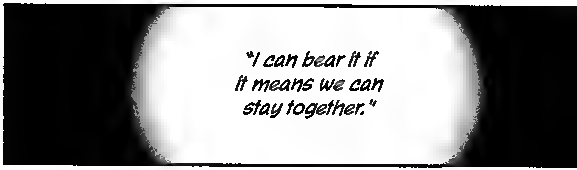
I KNOW THAT'S THE ONLY WAY FOR YOU TO STAY WITH US, BUT –

YOU KNOW, HEESOO...
IF YOU DON'T TRULY LIKE HER, THEN DON'T DO THIS TO RUI.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I LIKE RUI
WHEN I'M WITH HER, I FEEL AT EASE AND HAPPY. IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE FELT THIS WAY WITH SOMEONE OTHER THAN YOU GUYS...
BUT IS THAT ENOUGH TO MARRY SOMEONE? SO MAYBE, YOU SHOULD...
HYAEWANG, I SEE YOU'VE GROWN INTO A TRUE ROMANTIC.
AHHH

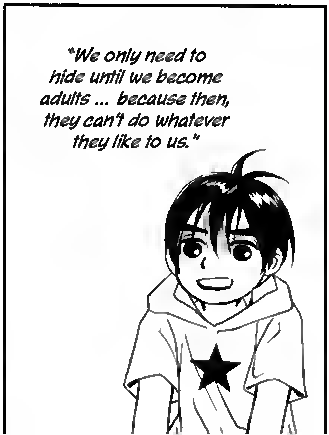
I WAS GETTING A BIT WORRIED BECAUSE YOU SAID YOU WEREN'T INTERESTED IN RELATIONSHIPS WITH WOMEN.
BUT THIS IS GOOD. I'M RELIEVED
MY KIND AND FRIENDLY HYAEWANG WHO NEVER CHANGES-- HOW I DO ADORE YOU.
BUT YOU KNOW, HYAEWANG, I WANT TO BE FREE
AND I THINK YOU TWO SHOULD BE, TOO.
HEESOO?

"What's that?!"
"Did someone do that?!"
"...The older guys said they hated me."
"But they still need me if they want to inherit the house. So they said they'll harass me but not enough to kill me."
"No way! I'm going to tell Mom!"
"She'll definitely help!"
"You can't. I'll probably be taken far away then. And I won't be able to see you guys anymore."
"I don't want to be separated from you two, Jabee."

"Only when I'm with you two can I truly smile."


"I can bear it if it means we can stay together."

"Let's run away together... to a place where your family can't ever find us."


"We only need to hide until we become adults... because then, they can't do whatever they like to us."

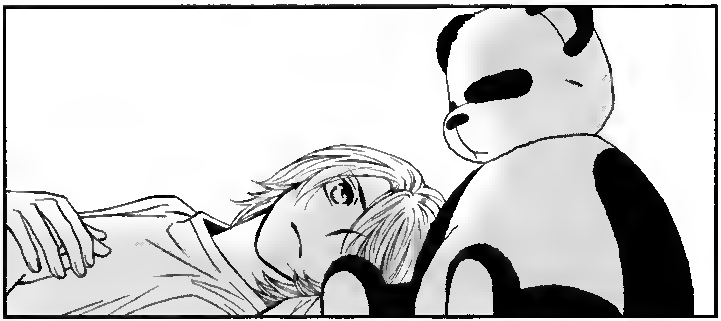
"What?! You guys! What are you planning without me?"
"Where are you going to go? Where, where?"
"A trip around the world!"
"We're going together."
"Wherever it is. Until whenever..."
"Together forever..."

IN THE END I DIDN'T TELL ANYBODY.
EVEN WHEN I CLEARLY KNEW HE WAS BEING USED FOR PROSTITUTION AND TORTURED.
BUT IF I HAD SAID ANYTHING, I MIGHT HAVE BEEN SEPARATED FROM HEESOO. I WAS MERELY AFRAID OF THAT.

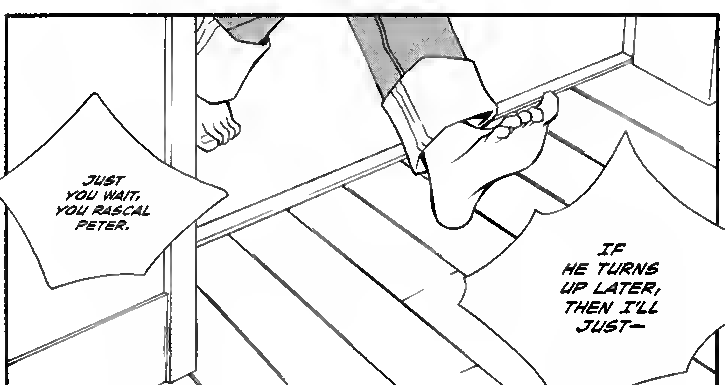
IF HEESOO DIDN'T RETURN,
I MIGHT HAVE KILLED SOMEONE OR COMMITTED SUICIDE.
EVEN NOW, AT NIGHT, I SOMETIMES WAKE UP TO CHECK THAT HEESOO IS SLEEPING WELL. AFTERWARD I CAN RELAX... BUT FROM TIME TO TIME, I STILL GET ANXIOUS.
I DON'T WANT TO HAVE NIGHTMARES ANYMORE.
I THOUGHT IT'D BE FINE BECAUSE WE'RE TOGETHER NOW,
THERE'S STILL SOMETHING INSIDE HERE.
BUT NO MATTER HOW I LOOK AT IT, IT'S GLOOMY AND DARK BEYOND COMPREHENSION...

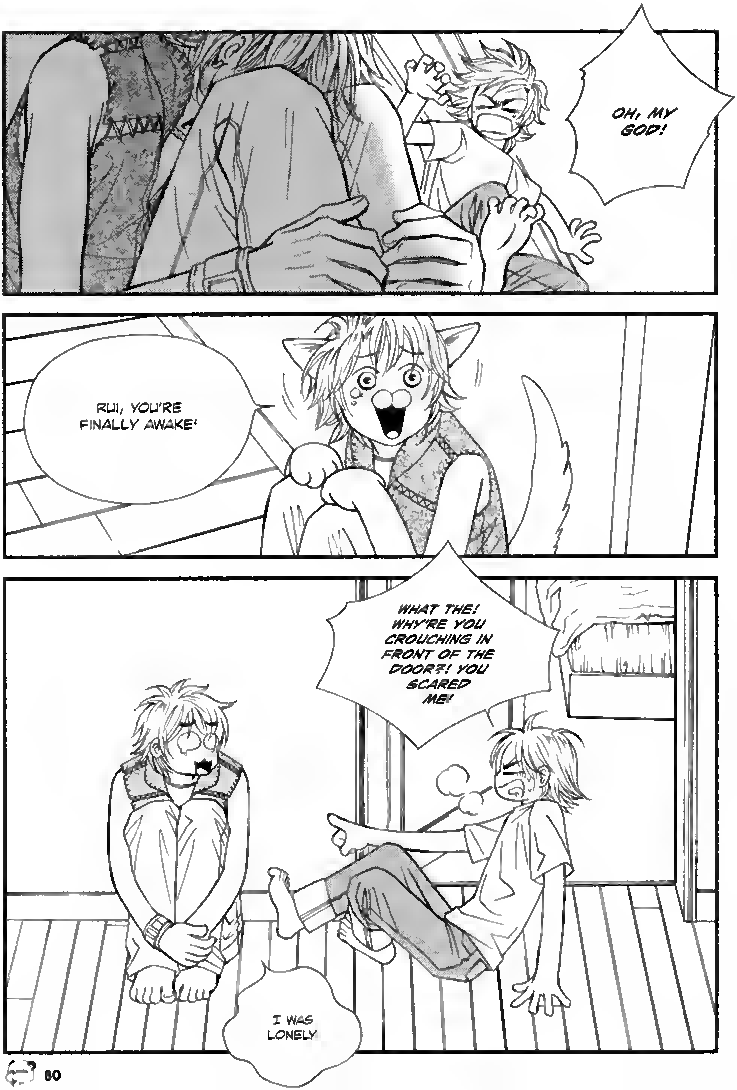
ALL BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO BE SEPARATED FROM HIM...
I CAN'T FORGIVE MYSELF FOR NOT SAYING ANYTHING JUST BECAUSE I WANTED TO GIVE HEESOO HIS FREEDOM
IF I HAD ASKED FOR HELP BACK THEN, THAT ACCIDENT WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED...
AND WHEN I THINK ABOUT HOW MUCH PAIN HE SUFFERED AFTERWARD,
I FEEL THAT I HAVE DONE MUCH WORSE THAN THE PEOPLE WHO ABUSED HEESOO
THAT'S *NOT* TRUE. THAT'S *DEFINITELY* NOT TRUE! YOU KNOW THAT, *RIGHT?*
IF IT WAS LIKE THAT, HEESOO WOULDN'T HAVE COME LOOKING FOR YOU.

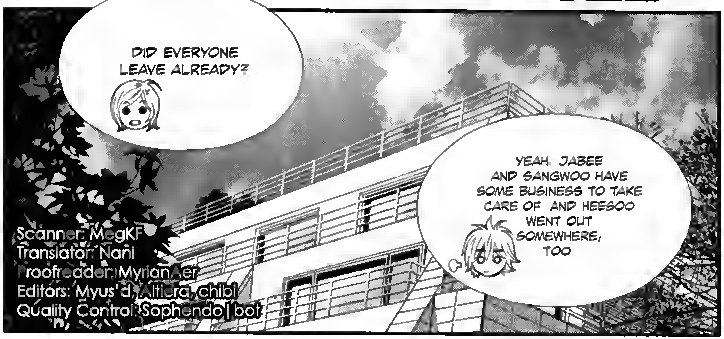
If God really exists, I want to ask him:
"Who has the power to erase the terrifying nightmares that these kids experience, through no fault of their own?"
"Who can take away their cruel burdens?"
"Become my new family."



SIT UP


JUST YOU WAIT, YOU RASCAL PETER.
IF HE TURNS UP LATER, THEN I'LL JUST—


OH, MY GOD!
RUI, YOU'RE FINALLY AWAKE!
WHAT THE! WHY'RE YOU CROUCHING IN FRONT OF THE DOOR?! YOU SCARED ME!
I WAS LONELY



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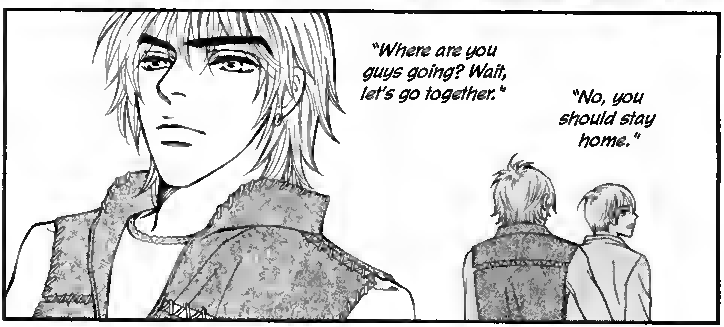
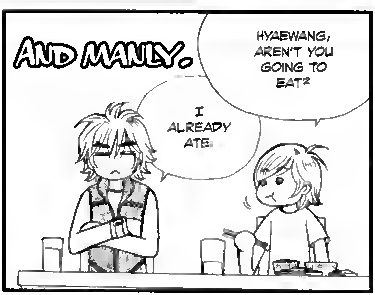
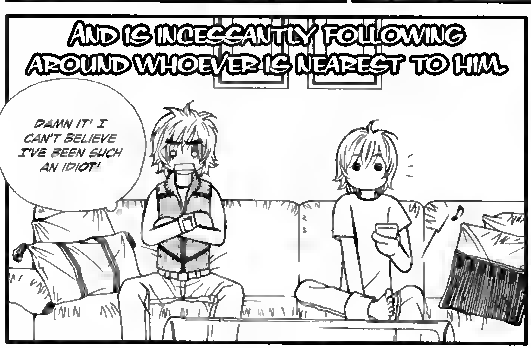


"Sangwoo said that it'll be good for us to spend some time alone. I agree."
"It's difficult for you to be on your own. You're just like a little kid which is a problem. You need to start acting a little more grown up, like a man."

Who says I'm not?! I can have a good time by myself!





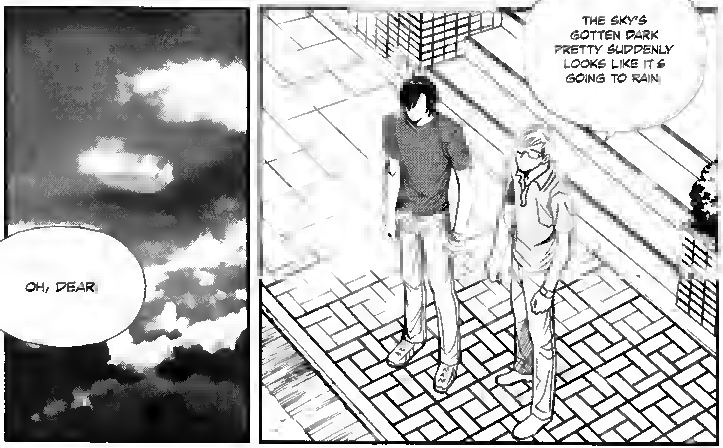
REALLY? OH... NO, PLEASE DON'T DO THAT.
I'LL BE THERE RIGHT AWAY. PLEASE DON'T KICK THEM OUT BEFORE I GET THERE.
RUI... WHAT'S UP? YOU NEED TO GO SOMEWHERE, TOO?
YES. MY LANDLADY SAYS THE STRAY I USED TO FEED HAD KITTENS IN THE BOILER ROOM.
UH...
WA—
WAIT!

ARE YOU GOING TO BE GONE FOR A LONG TIME?
WHEN DO YOU THINK YOU'LL BE BACK?
ER... I'M NOT SURE
I'LL NEED TO SEE WHAT THE SITUATION'S LIKE BEFORE I CAN SAY FOR CERTAIN
JABEE -.
HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
AH.
I'M ALL RIGHT. I FEEL FINE.

SURE, I BET YOU FEEL GREAT, SEEING AS HOW I CLEANED UP ALL THE GLASS SHARDS ON MY OWN.
NOT TO MENTION, I WENT TO BUY BANDAGES AND FIXED UP YOUR HAND WHILE YOU PEACEFULLY NAPPED.

Did I really just ... let someone see me cry myself to sleep?

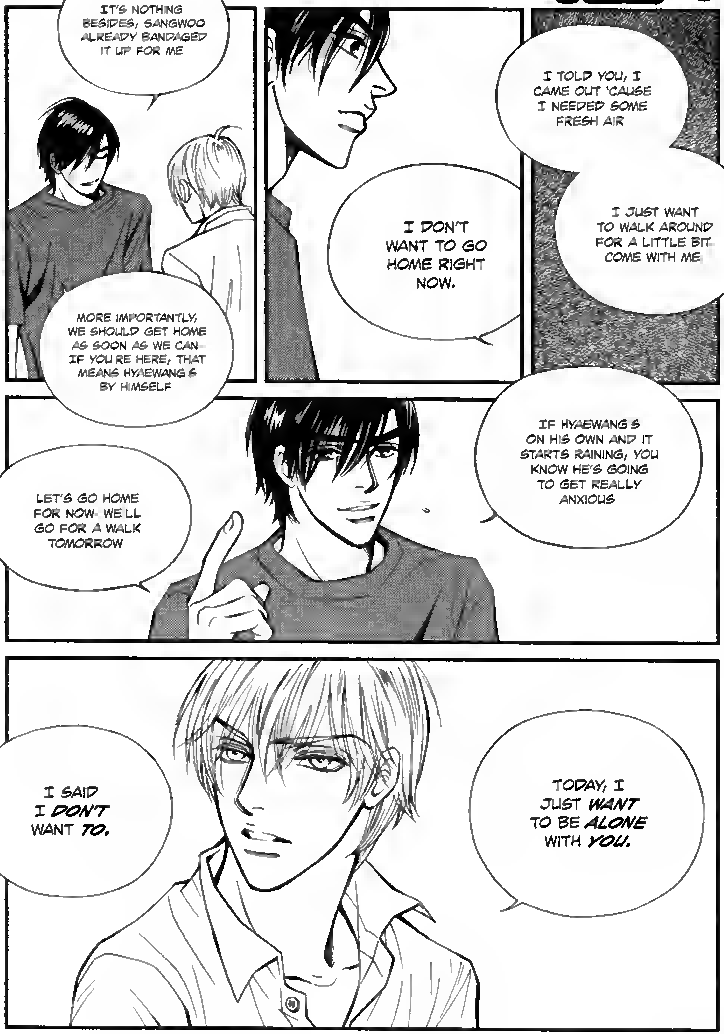
I've never done that before.



WHAT SHOULD I DO? I HAVE TO MEET SOMEONE BEFORE I GO HOME. DO YOU THINK HYABWANG'S GOING TO BE OK?
DON'T WORRY. I'M HEADING HOME NOW, SO YOU GO ON AHEAD TO YOUR APPOINTMENT.
HEESOO SHOULD BE HOME BY NOW, AND I'LL MAKE SURE HYABWANG TAKES HIS MEDICINE. EVERYTHING SHOULD BE FINE IF WE'RE THERE WITH HIM.
ALL RIGHT, THEN. THANKS FOR TAKING CARE OF IT. I'M RUNNING A BIT LATE, SO I NEED TO GO NOW.
GET HOME SAFE, AND IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, CALL ME RIGHT AWAY.
SEEMS LIKE AN IMPORTANT MEETING. IT'S RARE TO SEE SANGWOO GET SO FLUSTERED.
EITHER WAY, I'D BETTER GET HOME QUICKLY. WOULD IT BE FASTER TO TAKE A CAB...?

IT'S GETTING KINDA CHILLY LOOKS LIKE IT'S REALLY GOING TO RAIN
HEESOO ... HOW DID YOU KNOW I'D BE HERE?

I'M GLAD I FOUND YOU THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE HERE, I THOUGHT I MIGHT'VE MISS YOU
IMPOSSIBLE
No matter how many people there are,
I could pick you out of a crowd right away.
ARE YOU HERE BY YOURSELF? WHAT ABOUT HYAEWANG?
HE'S AT HOME.
I WANTED TO GET SOME FRESH AIR, SO I CAME OUT ALONE.
...HEY... THAT HAND...


IT'S NOTHING BESIDES, SANGWOO ALREADY BANDAGED IT UP FOR ME
MORE IMPORTANTLY, WE SHOULD GET HOME AS SOON AS WE CAN IF YOU'RE HERE, THAT MEANS HYAEWANG'S BY HIMSELF
I DON'T WANT TO GO HOME RIGHT NOW.
I TOLD YOU, I CAME OUT 'CAUSE I NEEDED SOME FRESH AIR
I JUST WANT TO WALK AROUND FOR A LITTLE BIT. COME WITH ME.
LET'S GO HOME FOR NOW. WE'LL GO FOR A WALK TOMORROW
IF HYAEWANG'S ON HIS OWN AND IT STARTS RAINING, YOU KNOW HE'S GOING TO GET REALLY ANXIOUS
I SAID I *DON'T* WANT *TO.*
TODAY, I JUST *WANT* TO BE *ALONE* WITH *YOU.*

HEESOO...
WHAT'S WRONG? DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
IT'S JUST THAT IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE WE'VE HUNG OUT—JUST THE TWO OF US. I WAS BEING CHILDISH.
DON'T BE SILLY, I WAS JUST KIDDING
IT'S CAUSE YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN SO GOOD TO ME.
I GUESS I WAS JUST A LITTLE NOSTALGIC FOR THOSE TIMES — BACK WHEN I WAS THE ONE YOU CARED ABOUT MOST.
LET'S GO.

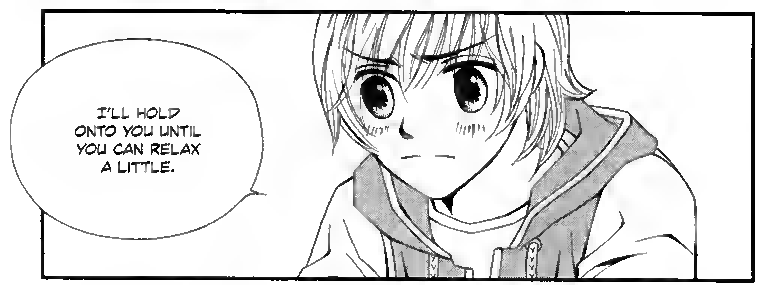
YOU KNOW I STILL CARE.
OK.
THEN, JUST FOR TODAY, LET'S DO WHAT I WANT.

HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? PLEASE HURRY UP!
HE ASKED TO COME WITH ME, BUT WHAT IF MY LANDLADY GETS STRANGE IDEAS?
HE DID CHANGE HIS CLOTHES, BUT NO MATTER WHAT HE WEARS, HE LOOKS UNMISTAKABLY LIKE A PLAYBOY
I'M WORRIED
But there was no way I could leave him by himself when he asked me with that kind of face

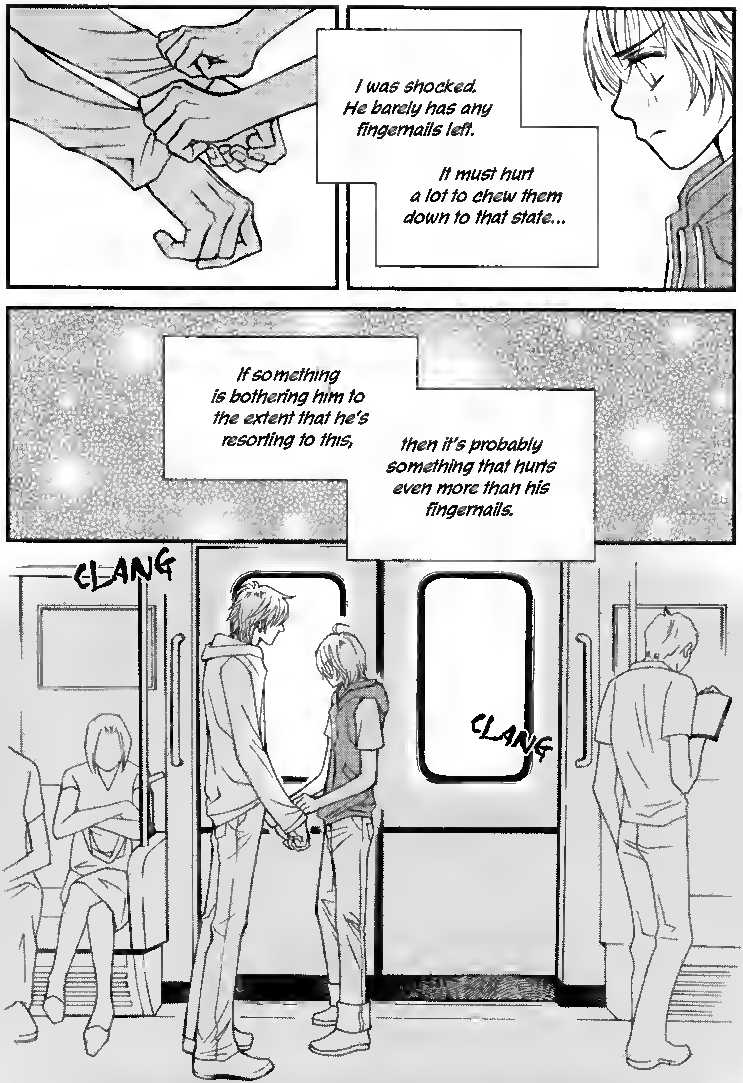
WHAT'S THE MATTER? DON'T YOU HAVE A PASS? SHOULD WE GO BUY A TICKET?
SERIOUSLY?!
YOU'VE NEVER TAKEN THE SUBWAY BEFORE?
I ALWAYS TOOK A TAXI OR RODE IN SANGWOO'S CAR
...
CLANG CLANG

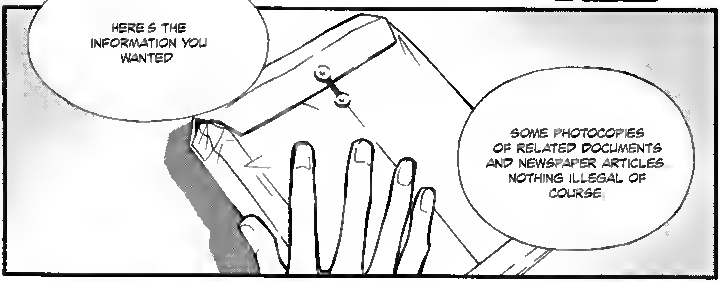
BITE
BITE
CLANG
CLANG
CHEW
BITE
CHEW
I can't stand it anymore...
PLEASE! STOP DOING THAT!
Oaph!
AT THIS RATE, YOU'LL END UP CHEWING YOUR FINGERS OFF.
SORRY I GET REALLY NERVOUS WHENEVER IT RAINS OR GETS CLOUDY LIKE THIS...
I CAN'T STAY CALM - THAT'S HOW I STARTED THIS HABIT...
EVEN IF I TRIED, I CAN'T STOP MYSELF.

I SAID TO STOP IT!
OUCH...


I'LL HOLD ONTO YOU UNTIL YOU CAN RELAX A LITTLE.

SO JUST TRY TO REMEMBER SOMETHING FUNNY OR A TIME WHEN YOU WERE HAPPY
THAT'S WHAT I DO WHEN I GET DEPRESSED OR WORRIED


I was shocked. He barely has any fingernails left.
It must hurt a lot to chew them down to that state...
If something is bothering him to the extent that he's resorting to this,
then it's probably something that hurts even more than his fingernails.
CLANG
CLANG


HERE'S THE INFORMATION YOU WANTED
SOME PHOTOCOPIES OF RELATED DOCUMENTS AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES NOTHING ILLEGAL OF COURSE

THIS IS SOONER THAN I EXPECTED. THANK YOU.

WHAT'S THIS?

IT'S JUST A SMALL TOKEN OF MY APPRECIATION, SO PLEASE, TAKE—

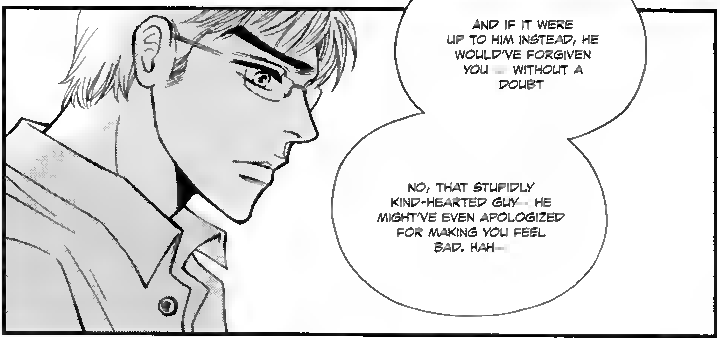
AH.
TOSS
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS? IS THERE A PROBLEM?
IF YOU WERE GOING TO DO THINGS THIS WAY, WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST GO TO A PRIVATE DETECTIVE? WHAT KIND OF COP DO YOU TAKE ME FOR?

WAIT!
THERE'S BEEN A MISUNDERSTANDING. I WASN'T TRYING TO BRIBE YOU!
SHAAA
JUST WAIT A...
SO IT ENDED UP RAINING AFTER ALL... I WONDER IF HYAEWANG IS ALL RIGHT...
JAEE6 IS WITH HIM, SO IT SHOULD BE OK, RIGHT? AND HEESOO 6 THERE, TOO

EXCUSE ME... IF I OFFENDED YOU, I SINCERELY APOLOGIZE.
BUT MY SOLE INTENTION WAS TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE SOMEHOW...
SHAA-
click
SURE, MONEY'S A CONVENIENT SOLUTION...
IF YOU'VE GOT IT, IT'S THE BEST WAY TO MAKE YOUR PROBLEMS GO AWAY
YOU SEE... BECAUSE YOUR PEOPLE SETTLED FOR SUCH A LARGE PAYMENT, I FIGURED IT WOULDN'T BE LONG BEFORE YOU'D FORGET ABOUT MY FRIEND. AND THAT ACCIDENT.
BUT SEEING YOU HERE NOW — I GUESS THAT WASN'T THE CASE?
I HEARD YOU DROPPED OUT OF A TOP MEDICAL SCHOOL — AND MET WITH THERAPISTS FOR YEARS...

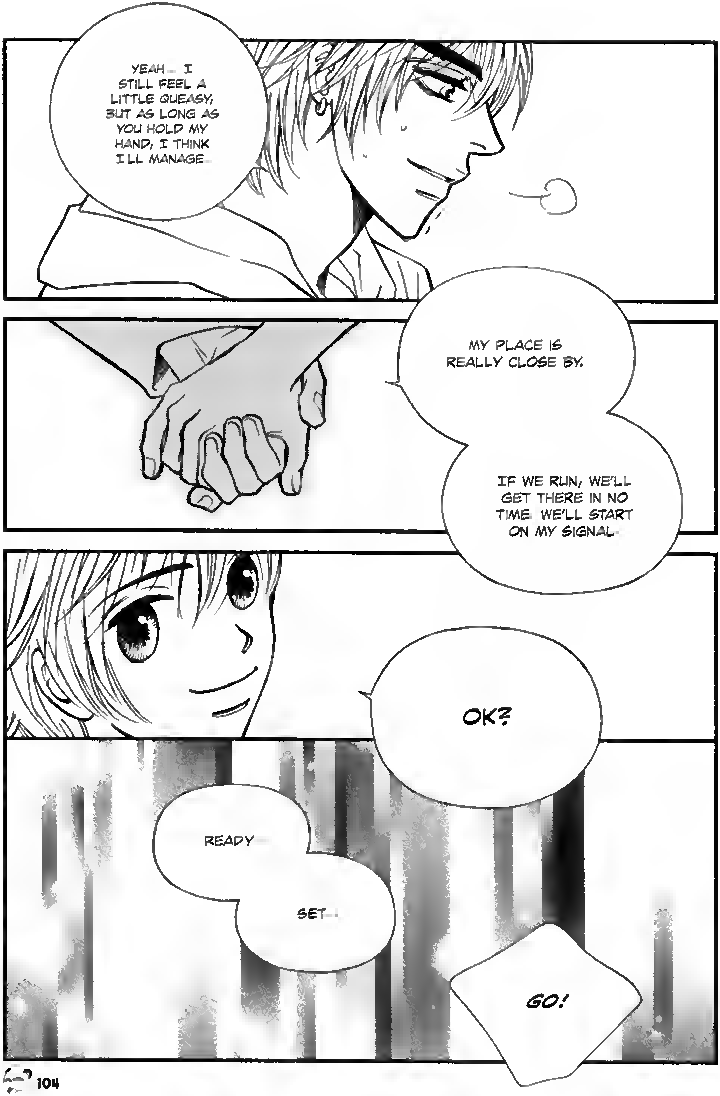
HONESTLY, I DON'T CARE HOW MUCH GUILT OR REGRET YOU'VE SUFFERED SINCE THEN.
I'M NOT GOING TO FORGIVE YOU FOR KILLING MY FRIEND.

BUT IF IT WERE THAT GUY — IF IT WERE UP TO MY FRIEND, IT'D PROBABLY HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT
I WAS AT HIS SIDE HIS WHOLE LIFE, WATCHING OVER HIM, SO I KNEW HIM PRETTY WELL.


AND IF IT WERE UP TO HIM INSTEAD, HE WOULD'VE FORGIVEN YOU — WITHOUT A DOUBT
NO, THAT STUPIDLY KIND-HEARTED GUY... HE MIGHT'VE EVEN APOLOGIZED FOR MAKING YOU FEEL BAD. HAH...

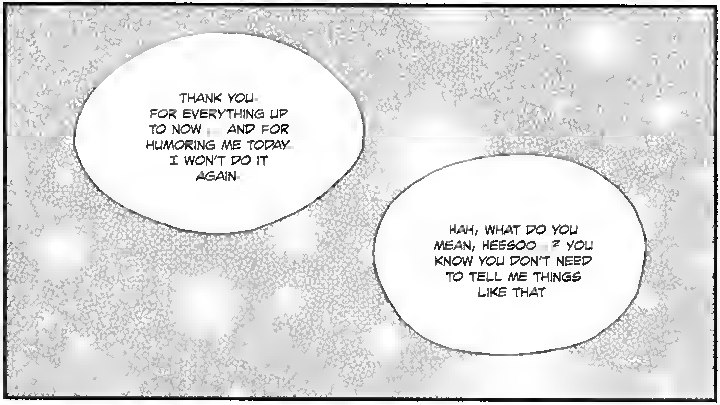
SHAA
HERE.
IF YOU STILL WANNA PAY ME BACK, YOU SHOULD BUY ME A DRINK SOMETIME.
SHAA
splash
splash

SHAAA
WOW, IT'S REALLY POURING
Subway Entrance
SHOULD'VE BROUGHT AN UMBRELLA
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

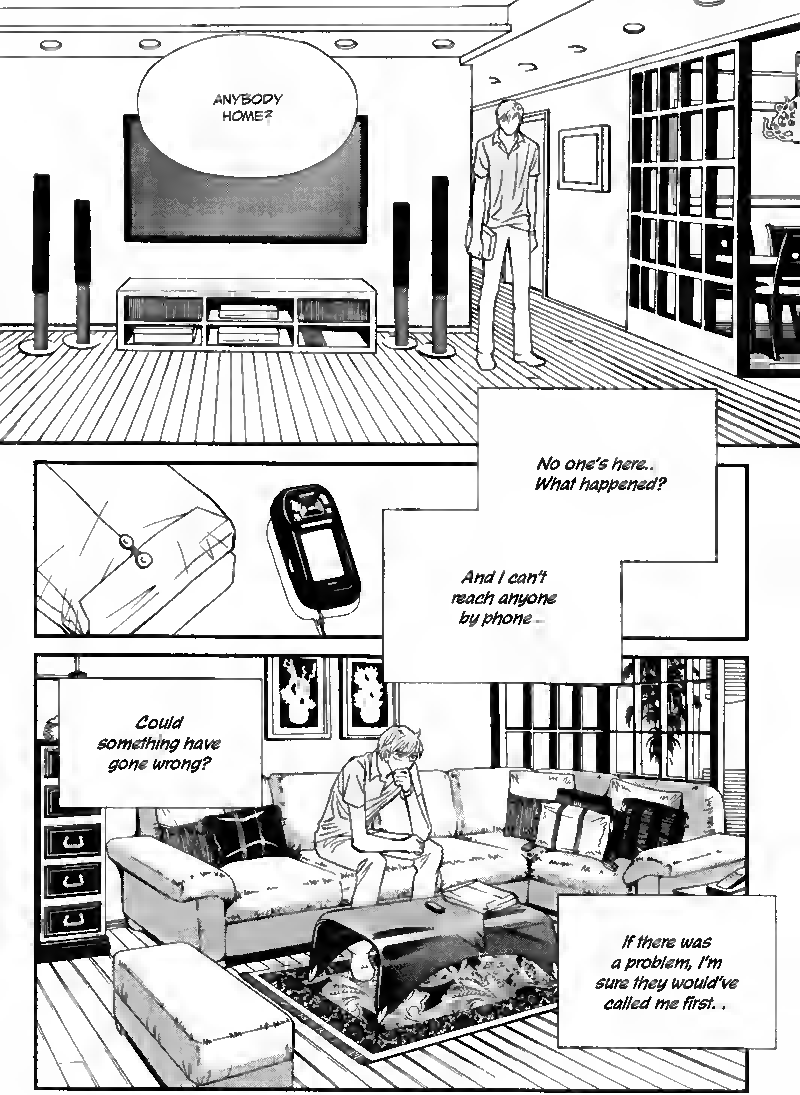

YEAH... I STILL FEEL A LITTLE QUEASY, BUT AS LONG AS YOU HOLD MY HAND, I THINK I'LL MANAGE...
MY PLACE IS REALLY CLOSE BY.
IF WE RUN, WE'LL GET THERE IN NO TIME. WE'LL START ON MY SIGNAL.
OK?
READY...
SET...
GO!

splash
splash
HA HA HA.. WE'RE SOAKING WET.
PANT
PANT
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE RUN LIKE CRAZY OR PLAYED IN THE RAIN.

JABEE...

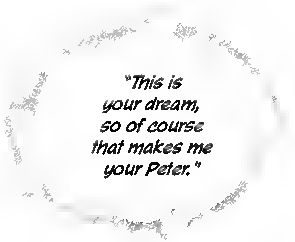

THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING UP TO NOW... AND FOR HUMORING ME TODAY. I WON'T DO IT AGAIN.
HAH, WHAT DO YOU MEAN, HEESOO...? YOU KNOW YOU DON'T NEED TO TELL ME THINGS LIKE THAT

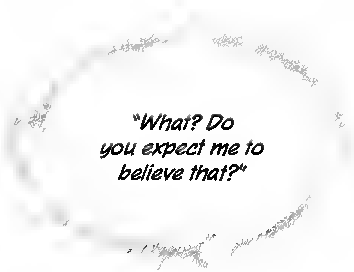
SHAAA


ANYBODY HOME?
No one's here.. What happened?
And I can't reach anyone by phone—
Could something have gone wrong?
If there was a problem, I'm sure they would've called me first. .

The information on Heesoo's
AH.
Embezzlement, even adultery...
Given these circumstances, it's possible Heesoo might have suffered some abuse.
So they finally moved their company headquarters out of the country after endless reports of incidents and scandals.
Oh, here it is.
The article about Heesoo's accident.
...What?

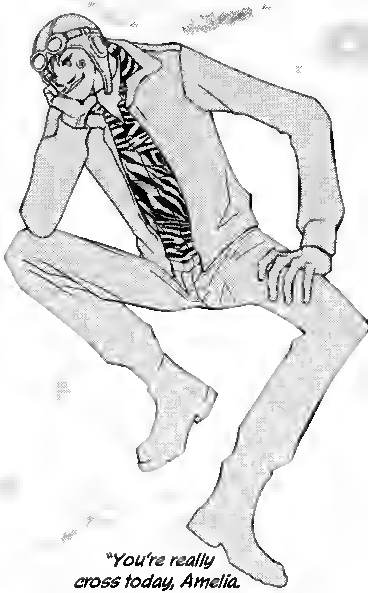
"Hello, Amelia.
I'm a Peter."


"This is
your dream,
so of course
that makes me
your Peter."


"What? Do
you expect me to
believe that?"

"That mustache of yours looks stupid."

"Humph, I don't like it, either. It's because you like your Uncle Anton's mustache that I, as your Peter, have a mustache like this, silly."



"Don't make me laugh. You're not at all like Uncle Anton. All of my other uncles think he's crazy and out of his mind, but I think Uncle Anton is the best person in the world."

"You're really cross today, Amelia. Did you do something and get in trouble again?"

"Mom says that no one will want to marry an unfeminine and rough girl like me. Not like I care, anyway."

"You're my Peter, right? Aren't you supposed to be useful? Liar."
"Silly. How many times have I told you? I'm not one of those fairies in stories that simply grants wishes. I'm your 'dream."
"My dream? Doesn't that mean you have to make my dream come true?"
"No, no, it's not quite like that."
"I show you your dream. The dream you want so much that you're always, always thinking of it .. even while you're sleeping. The dream you want that much."
"For example, the sky you want to fly freely in."
"Teh. I don't need you to see the sky! You are a liar after all."

"If you don't forget your dream even after we're separated, you'll surely be the first woman to fly."
"Really? I'll really become a pilot?"
"Oh ... but ... separated? Where are you going?"
"You said you were my Peter. You're not going to stay with me?"
"Peters are only allowed for children."

"When you start shedding your childhood to become an adult, we have to part."
"You know when you have to wake in the morning after a dream? It's like that."
"Then, am I going to forget about you? When I wake up, I forget my dreams more often than I remember them..."
"Ha ha... I don't know."
"...Don't make such a sad expression."
"Waking up after a good dream gives you a happy feeling, even if you don't remember the exact details."

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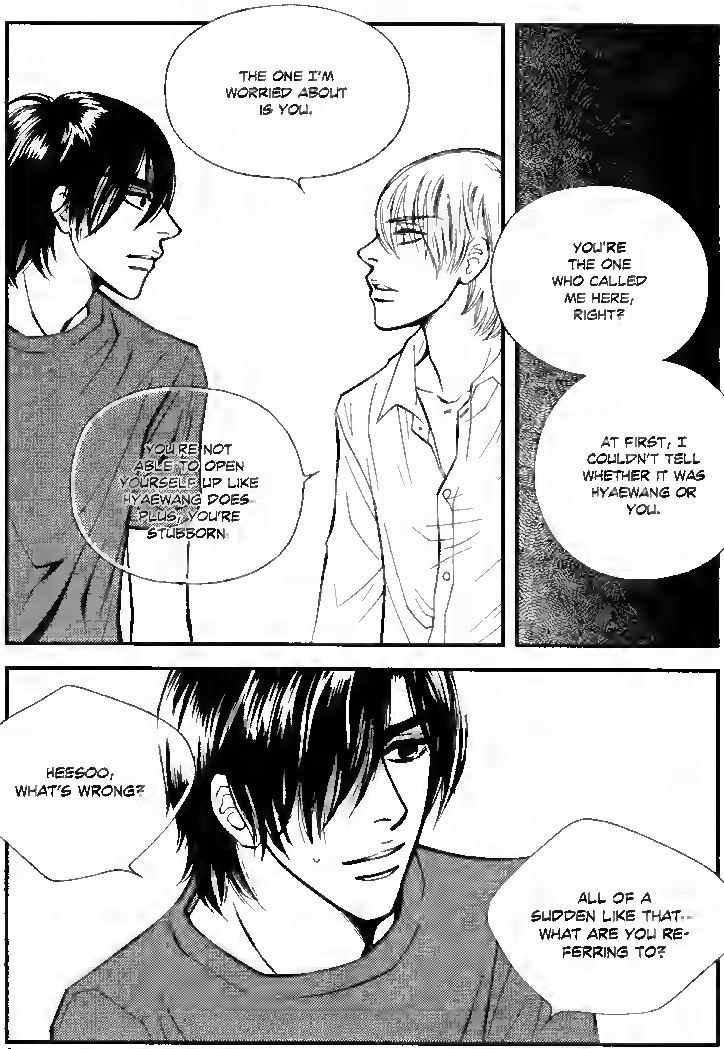
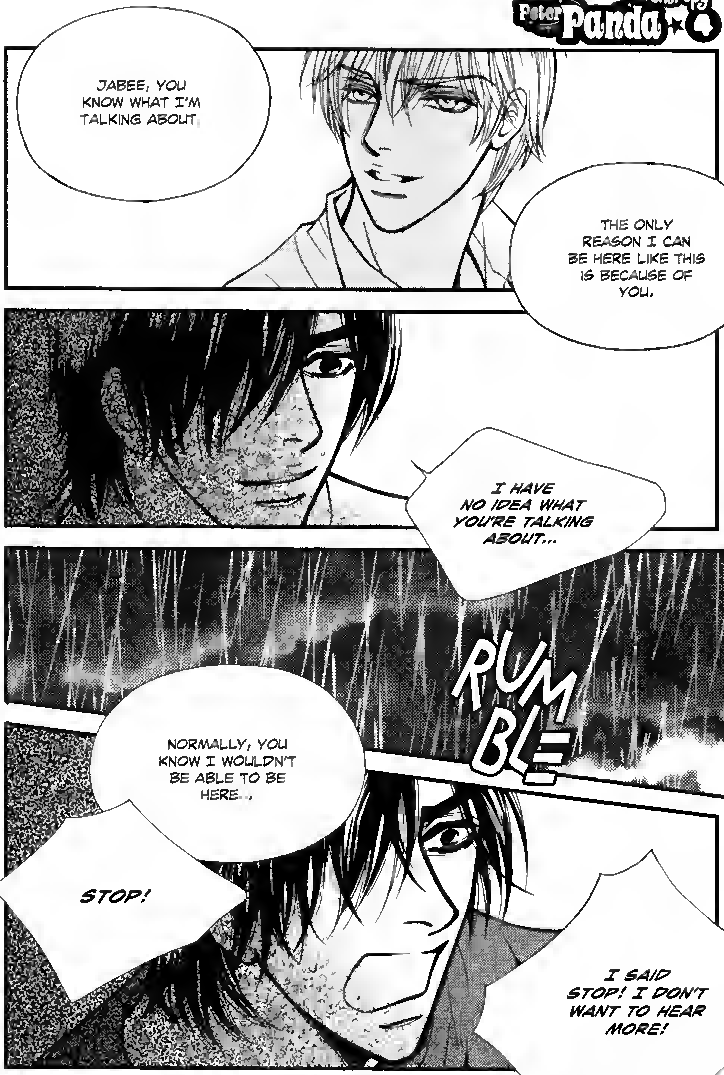
SHAAAAAAA
SHAA
YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT HYAEWANG, AM I RIGHT?

splash
splash
SQUEE
ZE
HMM.
THIS WON'T DO.
Let go, will you?!
Shake
Shake
WE SHOULDN'T BE OUT LIKE THIS.
APPARENTLY, THE POLLUTION IS SO BAD THESE DAYS, THE RAIN IS ACIDIC.

YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY.
HYAEWANG'S LIFE WILL BE GOOD BECAUSE HE'S A GOOD KID, WITH LOTS OF LOVE.
Put your hood on or you'll go bald
AS UNHAPPY AS HE WAS UNTIL NOW, HIS HAPPINESS WILL BE EVEN GREATER THAN THAT.


THE ONE I'M WORRIED ABOUT IS YOU.
YOU'RE NOT ABLE TO OPEN YOURSELF UP LIKE HYAEWANG DOES. PLUS, YOU'RE STUBBORN.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CALLED ME HERE, RIGHT?
AT FIRST, I COULDN'T TELL WHETHER IT WAS HYAEWANG OR YOU.
HEESOO, WHAT'S WRONG?
ALL OF A SUDDEN LIKE THAT. WHAT ARE YOU REFERRING TO?


JABEE, YOU KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.
THE ONLY REASON I CAN BE HERE LIKE THIS IS BECAUSE OF YOU.
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT...
RUMBL
NORMALLY, YOU KNOW I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO BE HERE...
STOP!
I SAID STOP! I DON'T WANT TO HEAR MORE!

RUMBLE
CRASH
...YEAH THAT DAY WAS LIKE THIS, TOO, WASN'T IT?
AH!
GAH!

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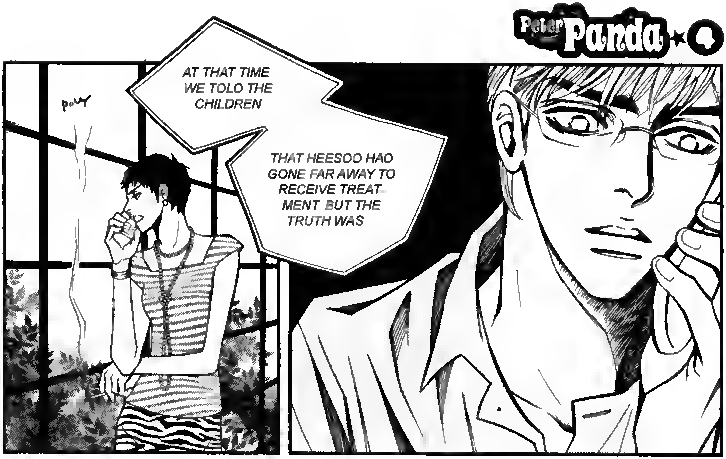
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
RUMBLE
WHAT COULD EVERYONE BE DOING OUT IN THIS KIND OF WEATHER? I CAN'T EVEN REACH THEM BY PHONE—
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN AFTER ALL?
I WAS CALLING BECAUSE I NOTICED SOMETHING STRANGE. I HAPPENED TO READ AN ARTICLE ABOUT THE ACCIDENT THAT HAPPENED TEN YEARS AGO.
IT SAYS HERE THAT THE BOY NAMED HEESOO
YES, THAT WOULD BE CORRECT
OH, YES. HELLO.


AT THAT TIME WE TOLD THE CHILDREN
THAT HEESOO HAD GONE FAR AWAY TO RECEIVE TREATMENT BUT THE TRUTH WAS

I'M SURE YOU WANTED TO BELIEVE WHAT THE ADULTS TOLD YOU, BUT YOU SAW WHAT HAPPENED THAT DAY.
YOU ALREADY KNEW THE TRUTH, DIDN'T YOU?
YOU KNEW THAT DAY, WHEN I WAS SPRAWLED OUT ON THE GROUND

SU HWAN
—UNDER THAT POURING RAIN, LOSING WARMTH EVEN IN THAT HAZY, HUMID AIR
—DEVOID OF ANY SIGN OF LIFE, NOTHING BUT A COLD AND EMPTY SHELL—
NO...

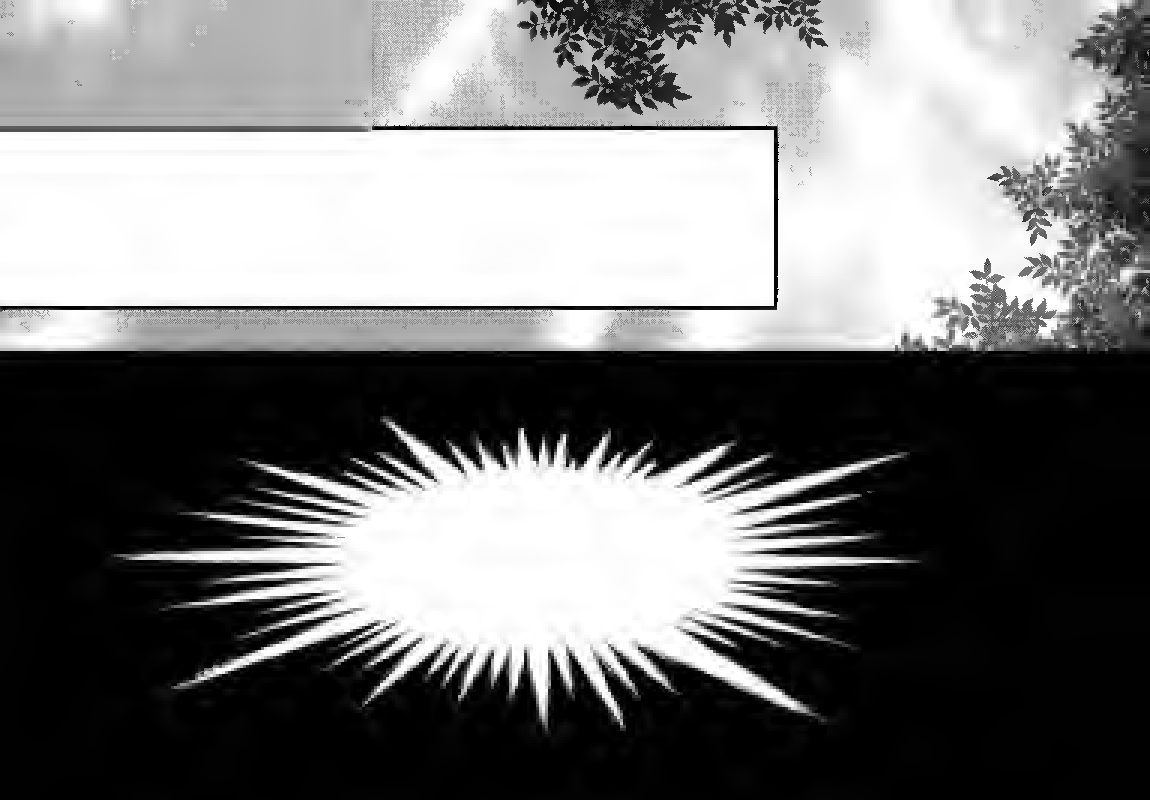
NO!
NO WAY!
WHAT'S WRONG? WHERE DOES IT HURT?!
NO! NO!!
...!!

MOMMY!
WHOOSH
AH.
IT'S GETTING REALLY WINDY
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
Oh, dear God. .
Cause of death was "a bite to the neck from domesticated hunting dogs."

The circumstances are just unbelievable...
Even with all my experience with countless post-mortem photos and autopsy reports, this is completely appalling.
Whish
To think those boys, barely twelve years old, saw this happen before their eyes... and to the friend they loved most in the world.
Only someone pathologically cold-hearted could easily overcome something like that.
But...
In that case .. the one who's been with us all winter..
Who on earth is that guy?

CRASH
CREEAK
AH!
whoosh
Aieee!
...

WE SHOULD GO NOW
WE CAN'T STAY HERE LIKE THIS ANYMORE- CAN YOU GET UP?
ACK!
CRASH
SLAM
LOOK OUT!



CHIRP
CHIRP
SAAAA
STARTLED
ARE YOU UP?

IT'S BEEN AN AWFULLY LONG TIME SINCE WE CAME HERE, HASN'T IT?
THIS IS...
THAT'S RIGHT.
THIS IS OUR EDEN.

DOESN'T IT SEEM LIKE THIS TREE'S GOTTEN SMALLER COMPARED TO WHAT YOU REMEMBER?
IT'S BECAUSE WE WERE SO SMALL BACK THEN...
STOP SAYING "WE" LIKE I KNOW YOU.
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
I'M YOUR DREAM.
THE ONE YOU'VE BEEN DREAMING OF FOR SO LONG. THE ONE YOU'VE SO DEARLY WISHED FOR THAT'S BEEN TURNED INTO REALITY.
TO BE MORE SPECIFIC, I'M THE DREAM OF THE LITTLE CHILD WHO NEVER GREW UP INSIDE YOU.
WHY ARE YOU BEING LIKE THAT? MAKES ME SAD.

THIS SITUATION IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM THE WAY IT USUALLY WORKS
SOMEHOW, I ACTUALLY GOT TO BE HERE FULLY-FLESHED IN HUMAN FORM.
I CAN'T TELL YOU EXACTLY WHY THIS HAPPENED,
BUT I KNOW THAT THE REASON WHY I'VE BEEN BROUGHT BACK HAS TO DO WITH YOU.
I REMEMBER WHEN I FIRST WOKE UP HERE.
I WAS SO CONFUSED.
THEN, LITTLE BY LITTLE, I STARTED TO REMEMBER.
SO CLEARLY AND SO VIVIDLY, AS IF THEY WERE REALLY MY OWN MEMORIES.
IT WAS AS IF I HAD BEEN BORN FOR THE FIRST TIME. IT WAS COLD AND LONELY.
IT MADE MY HEART ACHE.
SINCE I ACTUALLY MATERIALIZED INTO A BODILY FORM AND SO, WAS ABLE TO FEEL SUCH THINGS.

"I didn't know who summoned me here back then,"
"but I knew where I had to go."
"When I finally found the two of you, I felt..."
"I felt so happy—so extremely glad. And when I knew I had to leave you again, it broke my heart."
WAIT, YOU MEAN YOU HAVE TO GO? WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE HERE BECAUSE I CALLED FOR YOU, SO WHY WOULD YOU LEAVE?
IT'S BECAUSE, LIKE ALL DREAMS, I'VE GOT A TIME LIMIT.
AND WHEN COMPARED TO THE BRIEF LIFESPAN OF CREATURES LIKE HUMANS, I'VE ONLY GOT A VERY SHORT TIME.

NO.
I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE A DREAM.
I DON'T EVEN CARE IF YOU'RE FAKE.
YOU CAN'T GO.
DON'T GO.
PLEASE DON'T GO.
DO YOU REMEMBER?
WHEN WE FIRST C ME HERE ... TH T TINY LITTLE GUY...

IT WAS LIKE HELL TO WATCH THOSE MESSED-UP OLDER GUYS TORMENT THE POOR THING.
I COULDN'T BEAR TO IMAGINE ALL THE THINGS THAT IT WOULD CONTINUE TO SUFFER IT WAS AS IF I WERE WATCHING THOSE THINGS HAPPEN TO ME
I CAN NEVER FORGET HOW I FELT WHEN ITS BODY WENT LIMP, SLOWLY TURNING COLD IN MY HANDS
SO I PROMISED — I WOULD LET IT GO PEACEFULLY WITH MY OWN HANDS
I THOUGHT I WOULD NEVER STOP CRYING
"I was heartbroken..."
"...and frightened and sorry..."
"...and sad.."
BUT I HAD NO REGRETS
SINCE I KNEW HE HAD GONE TO A PEACEFUL PLACE WHERE NO ONE COULD EVER HURT HIM AGAIN
I MIGHT HAVE EVEN BEEN A LITTLE JEALOUS

THAT'S HOW I'VE COME TO TERMS WITH THIS.
I'M GOING TO A PLACE WHERE IT'S PEACEFUL, WHERE I'LL BE HAPPY... SO WHY DO YOU KEEP SUFFERING LIKE THIS?
THAT'S THE LAST THING I WANT...

It's so quiet, all of a sudden..
EH?!
WITH YOUR REFLEXES, YOU HAD PLENTY OF TIME TO JUMP OUT OF THE WAY, SO WHAT ARE YOU DOING TRYING TO PROTECT A GUY TWO TIMES YOUR SIZE?
STUPID.
Did ya miss me?
P-PETER?

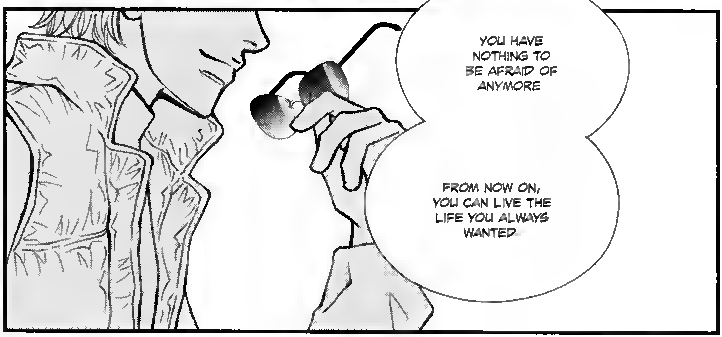
POW
YOU-!
I THOUGHT I'D NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN!! DID YOU GO OFF AND HAVE A WONDERFUL TIME BY YOURSELF? DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT I'VE HAD TO GO THROUGH..?
IF YOU MISSED ME, WHY DON'T YOU JUST SAY SO? WHAT'D YOU HAVE TO HIT ME FOR?!
SHUT UP! IF YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST DISAPPEAR AND SHOW UP WHENEVER YOU WANT, THEN YOU'D BETTER GET LOST! AND NEVER COME BACK!
OW ... IT HURTS...
WHAT? TO "SAY GOODBYE?!" QUIT WHINING. I ONLY HIT YOU ONCE!
SUCH A DRAMA QUEEN.
THAT'S WHY I CAME BACK--TO SAY GOODBYE!

I'M NOT KIDDING. I REALLY HAVE TO GO THIS TIME.
YOU GOT A HAIRCUT?
WHEN SOMETHING INSIDE YOU CHANGES, IT IMMEDIATELY SHOWS UP ON ME.
I WAS FEELING LIKE HAVING A MAKEOVER, ANYWAY, SO I THOUGHT I'D CHANGE TO A MORE CASUAL LOOK.
THIS .. IS SUPPOSED TO BE "CASUAL...?"
WAIT ... WERE YOU SERIOUS BEFORE? ARE YOU REALLY LEAVING?

I TOLD YOU BEFORE PETERS ARE A PART OF CHILDREN'S DREAMS.
AND RIGHT NOW, YOU'RE ALREADY STARTING TO CHANGE
EVEN THOUGH BY MOST KIDS' STANDARDS, YOU'RE REALLY BEHIND
ANYWAY, AS SOON AS YOU STOP BEING A CHILD, WE PETERS CAN'T STAY WITH YOU ANY LONGER
AHHA
IS SOMETHING I CAN'T SAY FOR SURE ABOUT SOMEONE AS SEXLESS AS YOU, BUT LET'S HOPE PEOPLE WILL AT LEAST START TO RECOGNIZE YOUR GENDER!
HAHAHA
ONCE I'VE GONE, YOU'RE GOING TO CHANGE A LOT MORE EVEN FROM DAY TO DAY, YOU'LL PROBABLY BECOME LOVELIER -

Twok
HUK!
Did she just stab me ?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
I'M EXACTLY THE SAME AS I'VE ALWAYS BEEN! I HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL.
AND I'LL FORGIVE YOU THIS TIME, BUT IF YOU JUST LEAVE ME AGAIN, I'LL NEVER...
ARE YOU AFRAID TO GO BACK TO BEING ALONE?
DON'T YOU REALIZE HOW BRAVE YOU WERE ALL ALONG? HOW HARD YOU TRIED TO LIVE A GOOD LIFE WITHOUT NEEDING ANYONE ELSE'S HELP?
I KNOW IT WAS BECAUSE IT HURT TOO MUCH TO TRUST PEOPLE WHO WOULD SURELY END UP ABANDONING YOU.
AND WHY SHOULDN'T THEY, YOU THOUGHT, WHEN IT HAPPENED WITH YOUR MOTHER, THE ONE PERSON YOU UNCONDITIONALLY LOVED AND TRUSTED.

BUT DON'T FORGET;
AS LONG AS YOU HAVE THE COURAGE TO REACH OUT AND HOLD SOMEONE'S HAND;
YOU'LL NEVER BE ALONE.


YOU HAVE NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF ANYMORE.
FROM NOW ON, YOU CAN LIVE THE LIFE YOU ALWAYS WANTED.

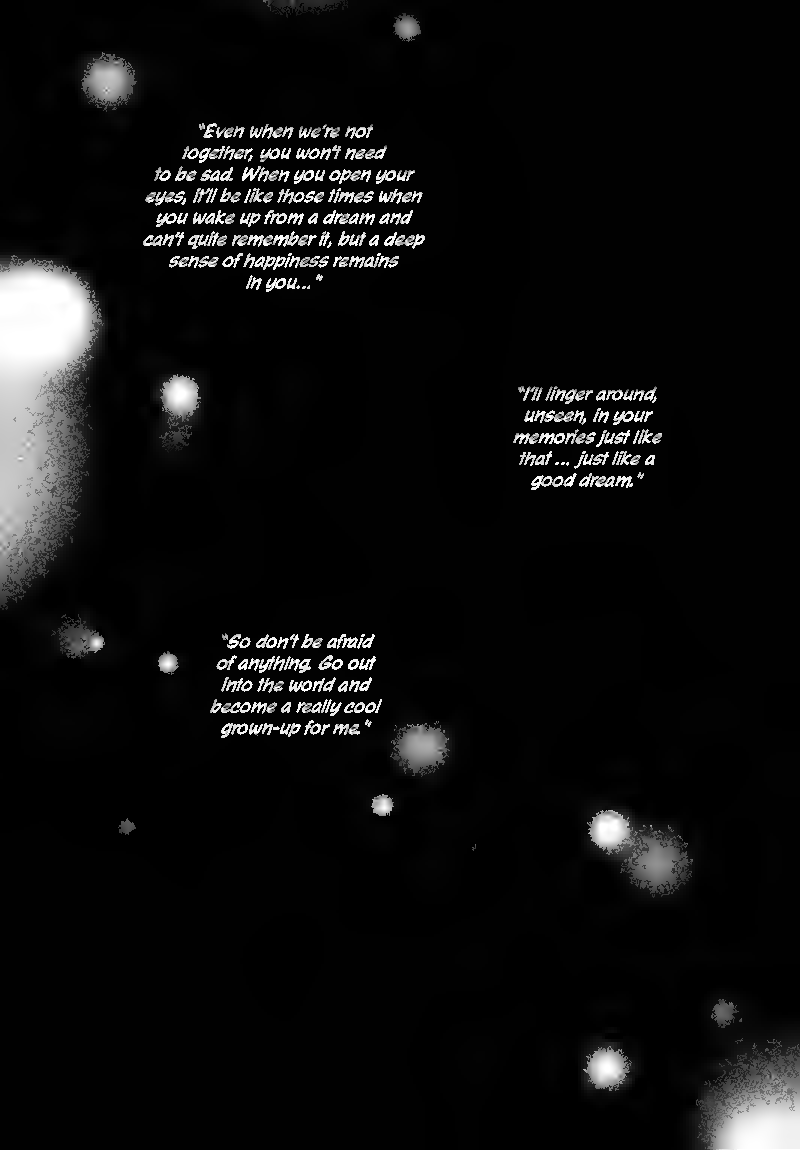
HEY...
PETER, WHEN YOU TAKE YOUR SUNGLASSES OFF, YOUR FACE — YOUR FACE LOOKS JUST LIKE—
I LOOK JUST LIKE SOMEONE YOU KNOW.
THAT'S RIGHT.
WELL, THEN. TAKE CARE, RUI.
"No matter what anyone says, you're going to grow up to be a strong and beautiful lady."

"Bye-bye..."
EH?!
He's sleeping?
Z

PLEASE, YOU SHOULDN'T SLEEP OUT ON THE PAVEMENT!
I'll draw on your face!
JUST LIKE THIS...
COULDN'T WE STAY TOGETHER LIKE THIS FOREVER?

YOU DIDN'T SUMMON ME JUST SO YOU COULD HOLD ONTO ME — NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU WANTED TO.
DEEP DOWN, YOU KNEW ALL ALONG THAT THIS COULDN'T BE.
YOU COULD ONLY STORE YOUR SUFFERING AND RAGE WITHIN YOU.
BECAUSE YOU WEREN'T FREE TO GROW UP OR GO OUT INTO THE WORLD.
I'M HERE BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO SAY GOODBYE.
AS LONG AS YOU HAD ME LOCKED UP IN YOUR HEART,

NOW, GO TO SLEEP.
WHEN YOU WAKE UP, YOU'LL FORGET THAT WE MET AGAIN.
I don't want to forget.
AND I'LL BE PRAYING THAT THERE WILL BE NO MORE REASONS FOR YOU TO HAVE BAD DREAMS.
OR HATE OTHER PEOPLE OR DESPISE YOURSELF EVER AGAIN. I'LL BE PRAYING FOR THESE THINGS FOR YOUR SAKE.
I'll never forget you. No matter what.


"Even when we're not together, you won't need to be sad. When you open your eyes, it'll be like those times when you wake up from a dream and can't quite remember it, but a deep sense of happiness remains in you..."
"I'll linger around, unseen, in your memories just like that ... just like a good dream."
"So don't be afraid of anything. Go out into the world and become a really cool grown-up for me."

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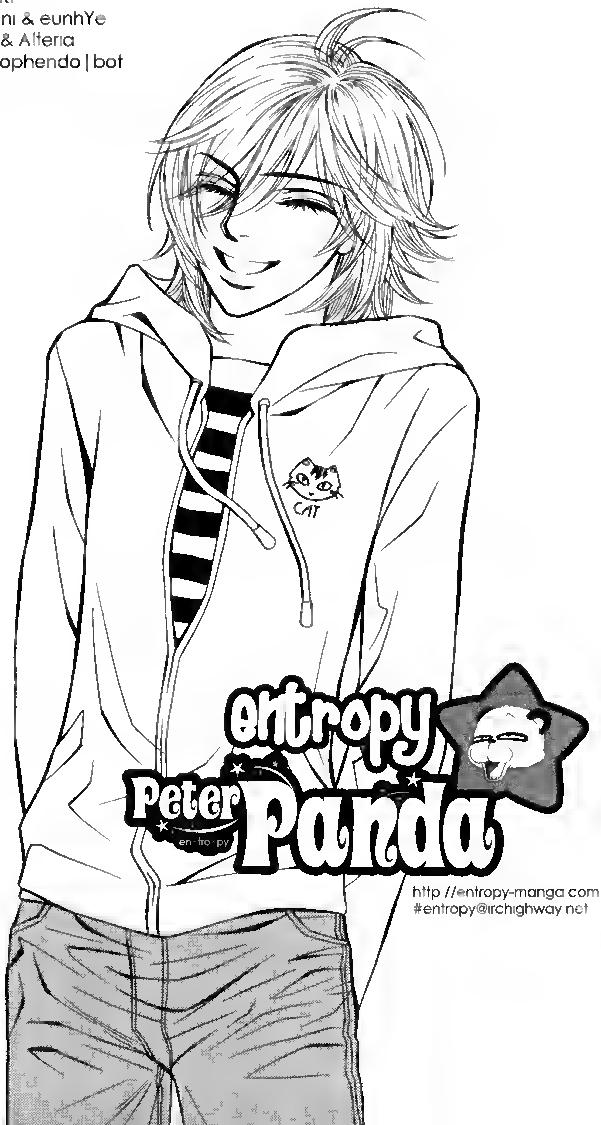
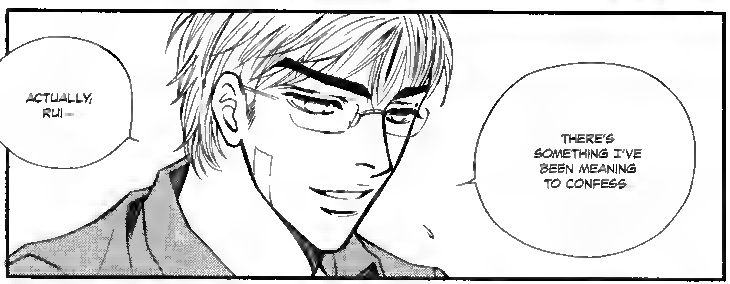


HAVE YOUR INJURIES FROM THE BROKEN WINDOW HEALED BY NOW?
YEAH. I ONLY HAD A COUPLE SHALLOW CUTS TO BEGIN WITH.
I WASN'T SERIOUSLY HURT, BUT THE BLAST KNOCKED ME UNCONSCIOUS FOR QUITE A WHILE
The strangest part was the odd feeling I had when I woke up—completely blank, as if I had no idea.

That feeling lasted for a long time afterward.
And every time I saw the kids together, that feeling came back, stronger than ever...
Perhaps that's because the kids had completely changed. I'd never seen them so at ease before.
ARE YOUR LIVING ARRANGEMENTS WORKING OUT?
YES. MY LANDLADY WAS PLEASED THAT THE LEAKY ROOF WAS REPAIRED.
WILL YOU BE ALL RIGHT ON YOUR OWN?
OF COURSE I'VE LIVED ON MY OWN FOR A LONG TIME NOW.
AND LATELY, EVEN WHEN I'M ALONE, I DON'T FEEL AS LONELY AS I DID BEFORE.

NOW YOU HAVE FRIENDS AT SCHOOL.
AND, SOMEHOW, YOU'VE FOUND TWO NEW BROTHERS.
AND MORE THAN ANY OF THESE, I HAVE YOU


ACTUALLY, RUI—
THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN MEANING TO CONFESS.

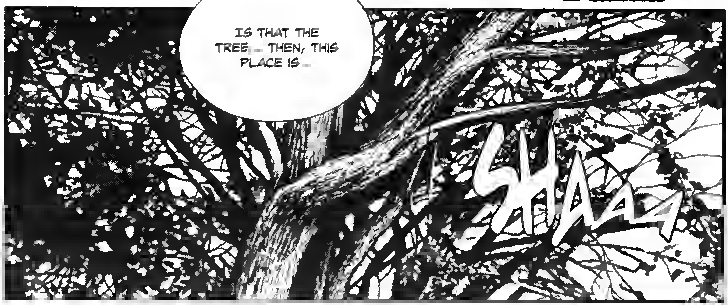
AFTER I TELL YOU THIS, YOU'LL PROBABLY BE FURIOUS WITH ME AND EVEN RESENT ME A LOT.
THAT MAKES ME HESITATE, BUT I'LL HAVE TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH SOONER OR LATER.

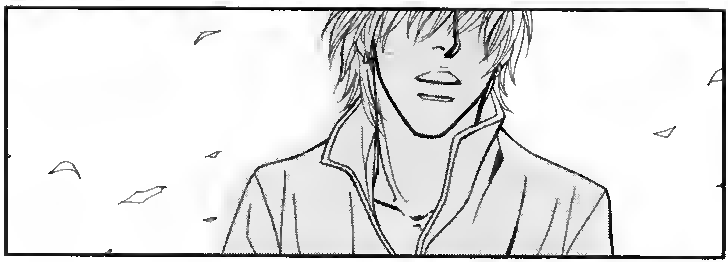
IT'S ABOUT...
...THAT PERSON YOU'VE WANTED TO MEET FOR TEN YEARS NOW

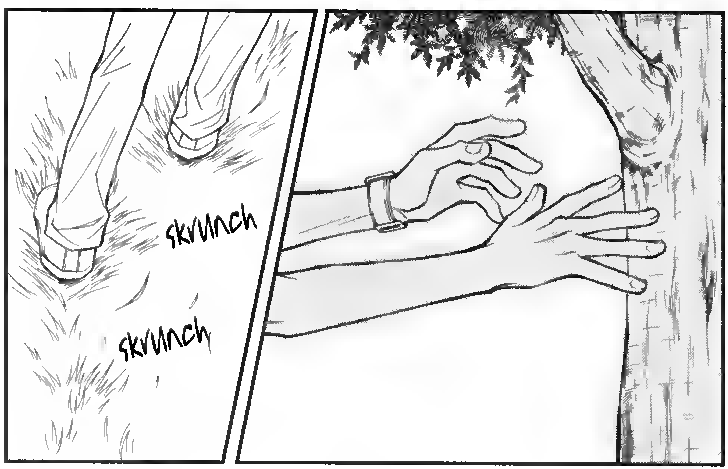
HEY, SANGWOO, WHERE ARE WE GOING?
IF WE'RE GOING SOMEWHERE FUN, SHOULDN'T WE TAKE RUI, TOO?
WE'RE GOING SOMEWHERE THE TWO OF YOU NEED TO VISIT AGAIN, AT LEAST ONCE.
A PLACE WHERE HAPPY, WONDERFUL MEMORIES AND HEART-ACHE AND SORROW COEXIST.
A PLACE WHERE YOU ONCE USED TO PLAY HAPPILY.

A NIGHT CLUB...?
SMACK
SCREECH
I'LL BE WAITING HERE.
YOU GUYS TAKE YOUR TIME.
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
HUH?

HEY, HEY!
TAK TAK
WHY AREN'T YOU ANSWER~
OH...


IS THAT THE TREE... THEN, THIS PLACE IS...
SHAA




skrunch
skrunch

STRANGE... IT'S BOTH FAMILIAR YET FOREIGN...
I RECOGNIZED IT AS SOON AS I SAW IT; BUT... AT THE SAME TIME, IT'S SO DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I REMEMBER...
ACTUALLY, THE SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOODS HAVE BEEN REDEVELOPED BEYOND RECOGNITION, BUT THIS SPOT HAS PRETTY MUCH STAYED THE SAME...
BUT WHAT USED TO SEEM LIKE A VAST FIELD IS NOTHING BUT A SMALL PATCH OF GRASS; AND WHAT SEEMED TO US LIKE A GIANT TREE IS JUST A NORMAL-SIZED ONE; AFTER ALL...
BECAUSE CHILDHOOD MEMORIES ARE DIFFERENT FROM REALITY
SHAAA

DAMN IT!
THE TEARS WON'T STO... JABEE'S GONNA GET PISSED AGAIN...
...!!
CRY AS MUCH AS YOU WANT
BUT TODAY IS THE LAST TIME.

O ... OK.
JUST FOR TODAY.
IT'S WEIRD JABEE.
WE HAVE SO MANY GOOD MEMORIES OF THIS PLACE. BUT SINCE OUR TIME HERE ENDED SO TERRIBLY
I THOUGHT THAT IF I EVER CAME BACK, I WOULD BE SO SAD AND SCARED.

BUT RIGHT NOW, I'M NOT SCARED OR SAD
ONLY.
HESOO... I REALLY, REALLY...
YEAH.
I MISS HIM, TOO.

YES, YES.
MY DEPARTURE IS SCHEDULED FOR NEXT WEEKEND.
NO, IT'S BEEN MY PLEASURE. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
I'VE LEARNED A LOT DURING MY STAY WITH THE BOYS
WHEN I RETURN, I'LL BE SURE TO PAY A VISIT.
YES, OF COURSE.
YOU WON'T NEED TO WORRY ANY LONGER.
THE BOYS WON'T BE NEEDING ME ANYMORE.

EVENTUALLY, THIS PLACE IS GONNA BE REDEVELOPED, AND IT'LL CHANGE, TOO.
I HEARD THERE WERE TALKS ABOUT TURNING IT INTO A SCHOOL.
WHAT? THEN, THIS PLACE IS GOING TO DISAPPEAR?
BUT WE'VE MANAGED TO SAVE THE TREE.
SOON, IT'S GOING TO BE REPLANTED IN OUR HOUSE IN KANGHWADO.
I ASKED MY MOM FOR THIS FAVOR.
YOU TALKED TO YOUR MOM? DID YOU CALL HER?
SHE MUST'VE BEEN SO HAPPY!
EH, NOT REALLY.
SHE STARTED NAGGING ME ABOUT THIS AND THAT AS IF SHE'D SEEN ME JUST YESTERDAY.

LET'S START HEADING BACK, SANGWOO'S WAITING.
YEAH.
Goodbye. Even if we can never return, this place will always be our paradise—our Eden. And even if this place should disappear, it'll remain inside us forever.

Strange...
That heavy burning pain I thought would never heal...
I don't feel it anymore.
I was always afraid of this. I thought that if the pain ever went away, my guilt and memory would disappear, too...
...and that I would forget you.
But now the place that used to hurt is suddenly full and overflowing with...
...something new...
You know what it is, don't you, Hesoo?

Because of this, I'll be OK.
Because of this, I'm starting to believe I can endure these slowly-passing days without you.

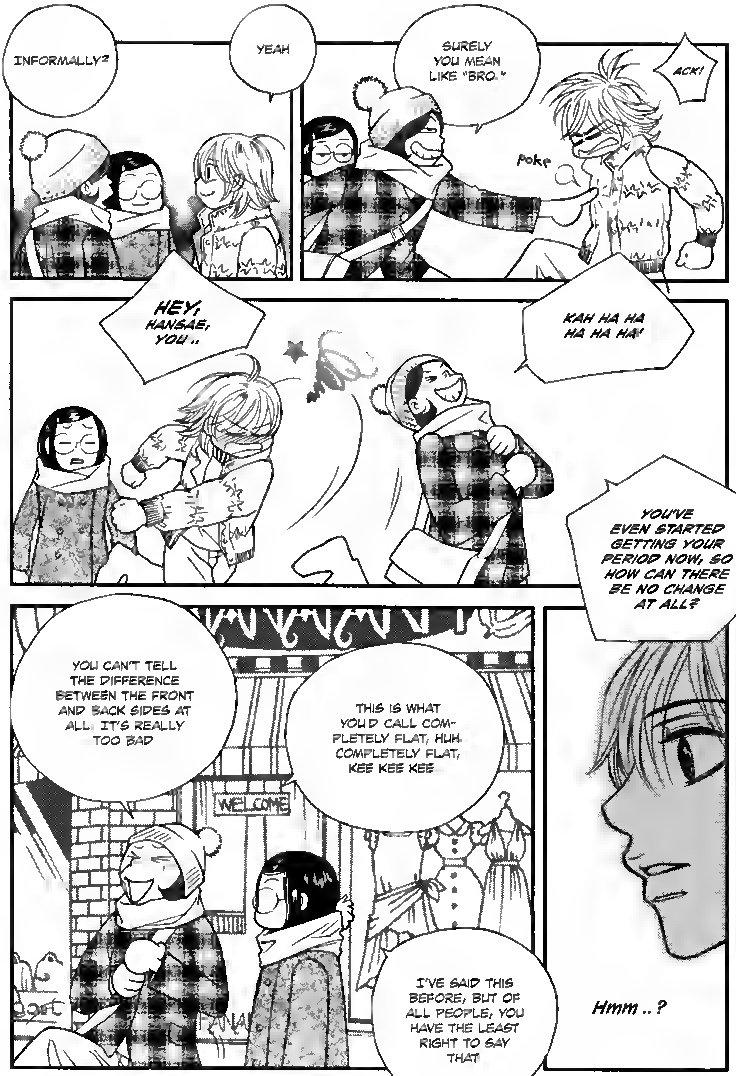
I'll meet you again someday ... for sure.
This time, I'll never lose you again, and we'll be together for a long, long time.
So wait for me just a little longer.

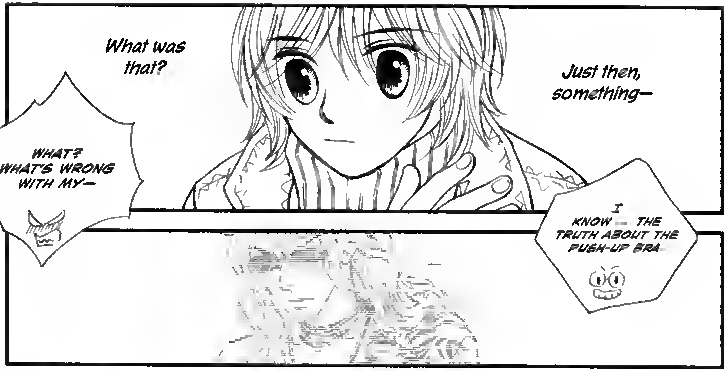
THE MORE I THINK ABOUT IT, THE MORE IT PAINS MY HEART. IT PAINS ME!
OH, THE TRAGEDY!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, HANSAE?
BACK IN THE THEATER, WHILE EVERYONE ELSE WAS CRYING, YOU SAID THE MOVIE WAS BORING AND FELL ASLEEP
AND THEN YOU STARTED SNORING! YOU CALL YOURSELF A MOVIE BUFF, HAVE YOU NO SHAME?!
DO YOU KNOW HOW EMBARRASSING IT WAS FOR US? WASN'T IT, RUI?
YOU EVEN DROOLED!
SHUT UP!
I NEVER WOULD'VE HAD TO SIT THROUGH SUCH A STUPID MOVIE IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR YOU GUYS!
A proper movie should have blood! And dead bodies!

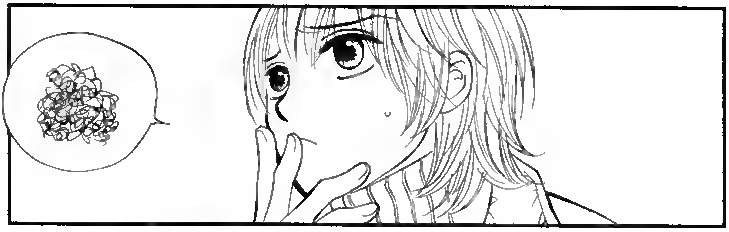
AND BESIDES, I WASN'T TALKING ABOUT THE MOVIE! I'M TALKING ABOUT OUR LIVES, YOU WRETCHES.
DON'T YOU GET IT? WHEN WE START SCHOOL THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW .. WE'LL BE THIRD-YEARS.
SIGH
YOU NEVER STUDY, ANYWAY. WHAT ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT?
HEY, YOU KNOW WHAT MY AUNT SAID WHEN I VISITED HER PLACE THE OTHER DAY? I TOLD HER I WAS GONNA BE A THIRD-YEAR, AND SHE SAID, "I ENVY YOU."
SHE SAID IT MIGHT SEEM TOUGH NOW, BUT LATER ON, WE'LL LOOK BACK ON THESE TIMES AS SOME OF THE BEST DAYS OF OUR LIVES
EH, EH, THEN CALL YOUR AUNT OUT AND TELL HER SHE CAN SWITCH PLACES WITH ME RIGHT NOW!
HUMPH! ALL THAT TALK ABOUT THE "BEST DAYS OF OUR LIVES" IS THE PLOT OF GROWN-UPS AGAINST THIRD-YEARS.
WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT IT, HUH? YOU TELL ME!
Please say something that makes sense
Those stupid "plots" of hers...
RING

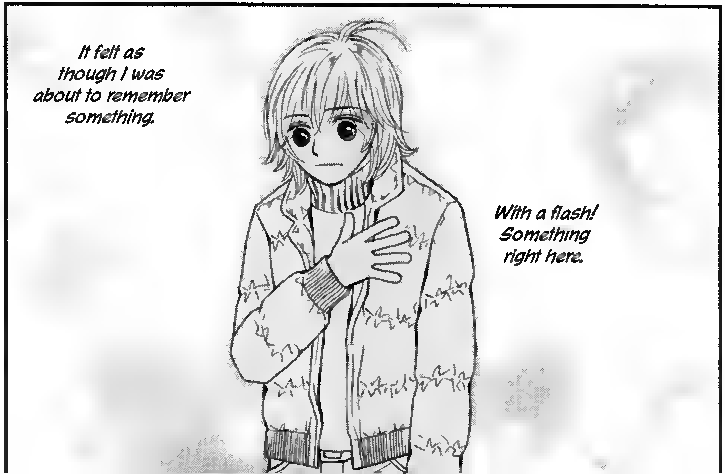
HELLO, HYAEWANG!
MR. SANGWOO IS WHAT?!
I CAN'T GO TODAY I'M OUT WITH MY FRIENDS
I TOLD YOU YESTERDAY, WE HAD PLANS TO SEE A MOVIE. YEAH, IT WAS FUN.
HA HA, YOU PROBABLY WOULDN'T LIKE IT, MAYBE JABEE MIGHT... ANYWAY, I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW. YEP, OK. BYE
SNAP

WHAT HAPPENED?
MR. SANGWOO HAS RETURNED TO KOREA FOR A WHILE NOW. WE'RE GOING TO GO SEE HIM TOMORROW
OH, THE GUY WHO WAS HYAEWANG'S AND JABEE'S PERSONAL DOCTOR?
YEAH
SO YOU'VE FINALLY DECIDED TO STOP BEING FORMAL WITH THEM?
YEAH.
HYAEWANG SAID AT SCHOOL THAT IF HE HEARS ME TALK LIKE THAT IT MAKES IT OBVIOUS THAT HE'S REPEATING A YEAR. SO HE DOESN'T LIKE IT
HE'S THE SAME AGE AS MY SECOND ELDEST BROTHER, SO I FIND IT AWKWARD TO TALK IN THAT MANNER WITH HIM.
I'VE GOTTEN INTO THE HABIT OF CALLING HIM INFORMALLY, TOO


INFORMALLY?
YEAH
SURELY YOU MEAN LIKE "BRO."
ACK!
Poke
HEY, HANSAE, YOU ..
KAH HA HA HA HA HA!
YOU'VE EVEN STARTED GETTING YOUR PERIOD NOW, SO HOW CAN THERE BE NO CHANGE AT ALL?
YOU CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE FRONT AND BACK SIDES AT ALL. IT'S REALLY TOO BAD
THIS IS WHAT YOU'D CALL COMPLETELY FLAT, HUH. COMPLETELY FLAT, KEE KEE KEE
WELCOME
I'VE SAID THIS BEFORE, BUT OF ALL PEOPLE, YOU HAVE THE LEAST RIGHT TO SAY THAT
Hmm .. ?


What was that?
Just then, something—
WHAT? WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY—
I KNOW — THE TRUTH ABOUT THE PUSH-UP BRA

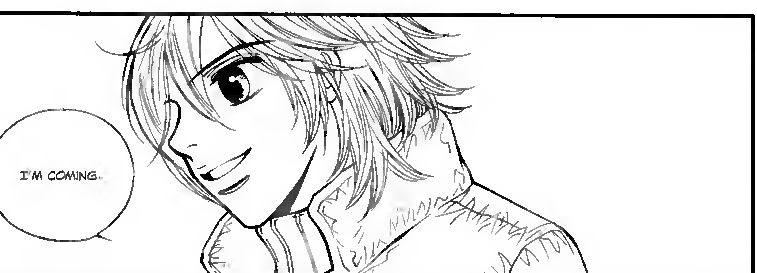



It felt as though I was about to remember something.
With a flash! Something right here.

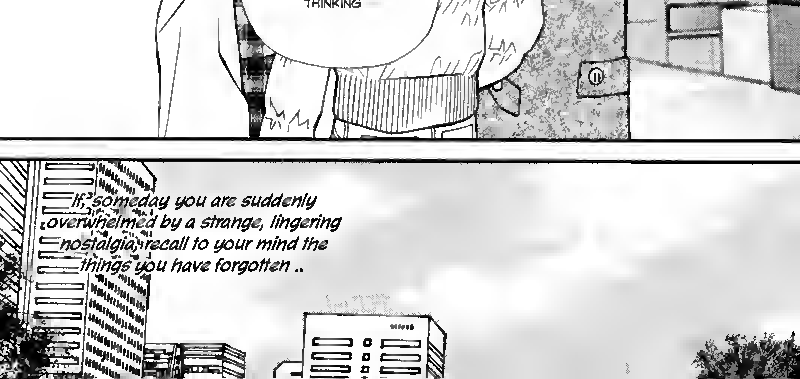
Something that's reminiscent and warm and slightly sad... I feel like I want to see someone.

I wonder why I feel like this all of a sudden. Is this a side effect of my period?

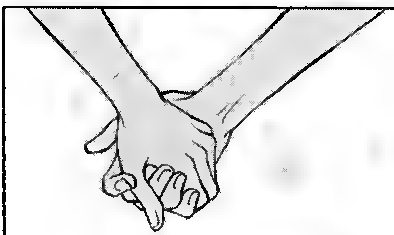
<Hansei Culinary School>


I'M COMING.

WHAT SHOULD WE EAT? LET'S GET SOMETHING HOT AND SPICY!
AGAIN? I WAS THINKING


If someday you are suddenly overwhelmed by a strange, lingering nostalgia, recall to your mind the things you have forgotten ..

The way the sunlight scatters its shining rays across those ever lovely things, and the breeze that gently slips by.



The little melodies you'd hum—unaware of yourself. The warmth of another hand holding yours.

The things that make you laugh. The things you love.

The things you look forward to. The things you dream of.

Because ... as long as you have these things, you are not alone...

Coloring by Misaki Sitara

Because ... as long as you have these things, you are not alone...

This was finished a little earlier than first planned, but as I'd told all the stories I'd wanted to tell, fortunately I could let it go without any great regrets. There were many difficult times such as the current manhwa publication situation which has no leeway, but if you read this book and feel that it was inadequate, that is completely my, the author's, responsibility.

To M1, M2, and S who worked hard with me on this, to the team who gave their all every publication time, and most of all, to those who bought this and are reading it, thank you very, very much... ♡

2007
On the verge of summer
Yen

P.S. If you are interested in my other works or news about what is happening, please visit www.na-yen.com ☆

Coloring by M[illegible] Shiva

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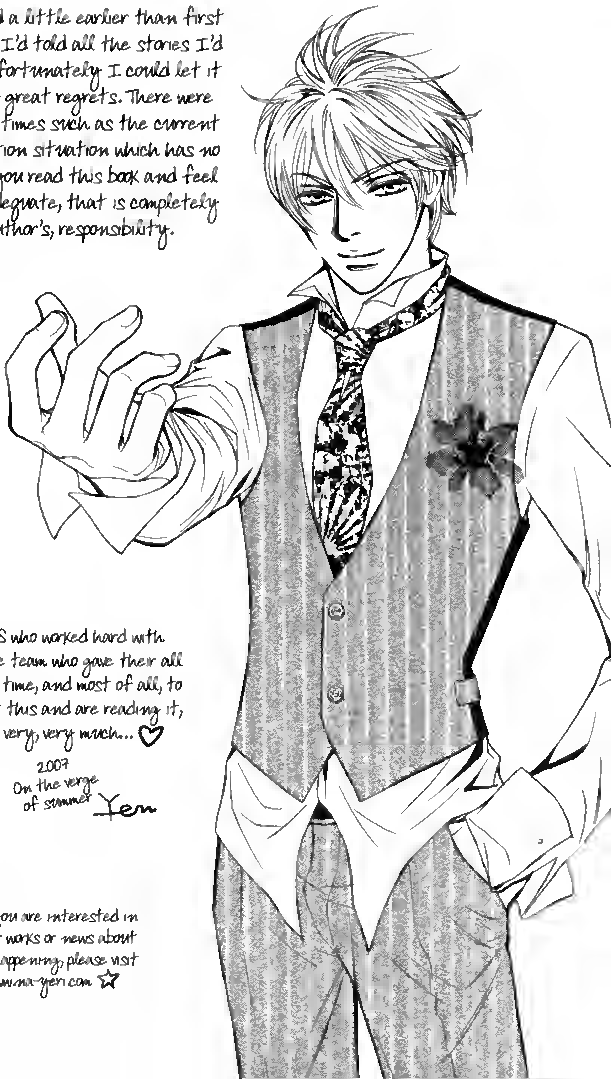

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